

U.S. urges Lebanese reconciliation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. State Department urged on Wednesday an early meeting of the Lebanese cabinet to launch reconciliation and political reform in that turmoil-torn country. Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman also condemned reported efforts by Lebanese militias to organise themselves into regular armies, saying this was not new, and that "the militia behaviour in Beirut has been an abomination." Asked about reports that Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami has been meeting some other members of the faction-divided cabinet, Redman said, "we are encouraged by indications of serious dialogue between leaders of different Lebanese communities. We hope the council of ministers will convene without delay and will begin a process of reconciliation that will end the war in Lebanon, open the way to political reform and allow the Lebanese to live in peace and prosperity under their legally-constituted government."

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Spanish minister to visit Syria

MADRID (R) — Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez will fly to Syria next Sunday for a three-day official visit, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. Diplomatic sources said the visit would improve relations between Spain and Israel last January. Spain last week granted the Madrid mission of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official and virtual diplomatic status in a move seen by diplomats as intended to balance its rapprochement with Israel and enhance its role in the Middle East.

Israel departs 2 more blacks

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel deported two more members of the Black Hebrews sect to the United States, bringing to six the number of cultists expelled this month for overstaying their visas. An interior ministry spokesman said Wednesday. The two, Pelon Rollinson and James Sain, were put aboard an El Al jet en route to the United States at 1 a.m., said Yael Ya Bar-Israel, who serves as a spokeswoman for the sect. The daily Hadashot reported that a police car brought them to the plane in handcuffs.

New group claims explosions in Iran

ATHENS (AP) — An Iranian group calling itself SYS claimed responsibility Wednesday for car bomb attacks in Tehran and the Iranian holy city of Qom that killed more than 30 people. The claim was made in a telephone call to AP by a man who described the group as "a nationalist organisation that aims to make Iran as uncomfortable as possible for the regime" of Ayatollah Khomeini. "The attacks were to urge people to mobilise against the regime," the caller, who spoke in English, said. A car bomb blast in central Tehran on Tuesday killed 20 people and wounded many more. Last Saturday, another car bomb explosion in Qom killed 13 and wounded about 100 people.

Israeli-Arab committee protests anti-PLO law

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israelis and Palestinians from the occupied West Bank on Wednesday protested a law banning meetings between Israelis and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Members of the Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue, a group of Israelis of Middle Eastern origin, told a news conference they would defy the law passed by parliament Aug. 6. Spokesman Latif Dori pledged that he and other "Israeli and Palestinian peacekeepers will continue to meet in all places." He said he attended a United Nations-sponsored conference with PLO members last month which resolved to seek peace. Today he could be imprisoned for three years for attending such a meeting, he said.

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Sudan buries crash victims after calling off talks with rebels

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan said on Wednesday that army troops had buried the bodies of 60 people killed when rebels shot down a Sudanair commercial plane in south Sudan last Saturday.

The Khartoum government said Tuesday night it was breaking off peace talks with Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) leader John Garang because of the SPLA attack on the aircraft. A Defence Ministry statement said an army convoy had found the wreckage of the Fokker Friendship near the town of Malakal, 680 kilometres south of Khartoum. The plane was shot down by a missile just after it left Malakal airport.

The statement said troops buried the 60 victims — 57 passengers and three crew — near the scene of the crash. "The rebels have looted the property of the victims and mutilated their bodies," the statement added.

A government statement read Tuesday night by Information Minister Mohammad Tawfik Ahmad described Colonel Garang as a criminal. "There is no way for this government to share a platform with pirates and gangsters," it said. "The government will firmly confront any further criminal steps taken by John Garang to make him understand that the path to peace cannot be on the bodies of innocent women and children." The SPLA admitted shooting down the plane, after warning it would attack any aircraft flying over areas it holds. The rebels, who have fought a

bitter three-year bush war with government troops, on Tuesday warned civilians to leave four major southern towns to avoid being caught in fighting. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) suspended flights of food to the famine-stricken south in wake of the Saturday attack.

The civilian government of Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi had repeatedly urged Col. Garang to enter talks to end the three-year conflict, which has drained Sudan's economy at a time of widespread famine and near national bankruptcy. Col. Garang and Mr. Mahdi, elected a year after the overthrow of President Jaafar Numeiri, met last month in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia but reached no agreement.

Both told reporters that Islamic law, imposed by Mr. Numeiri in 1983, was the major issue dividing them. Southern Sudan is largely Christian and animist while the north is predominantly Muslim.

The government statement on Tuesday followed a day of sporadic demonstrations by crowds of Sudanese shouting slogans demanding "stern government action" against the "traitor Garang." Police broke up the demonstrations with tear gas and baton charges, according to witnesses.

DFLP: Fateh is 'committed' to scrap Feb. 11 agreement

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fateh movement has agreed to announce the scrapping of the Feb. 11, 1985, Amman accord at the proposed Palestinian reconciliation conference in Algeria, leader of the DFLP Nayef Hawatmeh was quoted as saying here Wednesday.

The Amman accord bound the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to work jointly with Jordan for a comprehensive settlement with Israel based on the "territory for peace" formula. The dialogue between the two sides is stalemated, but neither Jordan nor the PLO has not renounced the accord.

Mr. Hawatmeh, secretary-general of the DFLP (Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine) told Abu Dhabi's Al Itihad newspaper that Fateh "is committed to scrap the Amman agreement at the proposed reconciliation conference in Algeria."

Mr. Hawatmeh said the pledge was given by a Fateh delegation which met in Moscow recently with representatives of the DFLP and the Palestinian Communist Party to iron out some of the differences that have split PLO

ranks. But George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), was quoted in a separate interview with Al Itihad as insisting that the Amman agreement be abrogated prior to the Algerian reconciliation conference.

"The Palestinian unity must be based on political and organisational structure that fosters close relations with Syria and distances the PLO from the American solution to the Middle East problem," Dr. Habash said. Mr. Hawatmeh said the reconciliation conference would be held "with the participation of whoever attends."

"Those who place prior demands in the way such as cancelling the Amman agreement are against the national dialogue," Mr. Hawatmeh added in the interview with Al Itihad.

The PFLP is a member of the Damascus-based "National Salvation Front" that groups the Palestinian factions that oppose Mr. Arafat's policy and leadership. They include opposition elements within his own Fateh movement but the DFLP is not a member.

U.S. postman kills 15 people and then himself

EDMOND, Okla (R) — A 44-year-old postman threatened with dismissal went on a killing spree on Wednesday, shooting to death 15 fellow workers at a U.S. post office before committing suicide, officials said.

"He never said a word as he shot the place up," said Edmond police Major Dave Preston.

It was the second largest mass killing in a single day in American history.

Officials said that Pat Sherrill, a full-time postman in this Oklahoma city suburb for the past 18 months, parked his car in the employee parking lot, killed one person there and then ran into the

main mail sorting room where he began shooting at people as if they were "sitting ducks."

Only a day before, police said Sherrill had been threatened with dismissal for poor job performance.

Dozens of people fled as Sherrill fired at them with two .45 calibre guns and one .22 calibre pistol.

Police said there were about 80 people in the one-storey modern post office when Sherrill arrived at about 7 a.m.

One person locked himself safely in a vault, two others locked themselves into an inspectors' office, thus saving their lives.



CROWN PRINCE VISITS ARMY UNIT: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday visits formations of the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division. During the visit, the Crown Prince was briefed on the various training programmes of the division. He also watched exercises performed by the unit (Petra photo)

Bush visit broke no new ground towards Mideast peace — Baz

Vice-president 'was seeking to better election prospects'

CAIRO (AP) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush made no progress toward peace during his recent Middle East tour and the visit seemed aimed at enhancing his presidential prospects, a senior Egyptian official is quoted as saying. "Bush's visit brought nothing new concerning peace efforts," Osama Al Baz, political adviser to President Hosni Mubarak, said in an interview with the Al-Mussawwar magazine. "I think the main purpose behind (the trip) was that Bush was seeking to improve his position and increase the chance of him becoming the Republican presidential nominee after (President Ronald) Reagan's term."

The interview with Dr. Baz, a senior negotiator in talks that produced the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli treaty, appeared in an issue released Thursday. Mr. Bush visited Israel, Jordan and Egypt earlier this month. At a press conference in Cairo on Aug. 5 at the end of the tour, the vice-president cited several points

of agreement among the three governments which he said indicated enough common ground to form "a basis on which peace negotiations can move forward." The points included the need for negotiations for a lasting peace in the Middle East taking into account Israel's security, security of all other countries in the area and "aspirations of the Palestinian people."

In the interview, Dr. Baz said the three governments had long since agreed on the points Mr. Bush cited "giving the impression that they are points which were discussed and agreed on."

"All that happened was that the administration, in its American way, deliberately gave the impression that it held intensive talks with Egypt, Jordan and Israel on peace prospects and that these talks resulted in limited progress which was outlined in Bush's statement," Dr. Baz said.

"In reality, what happened is that some of Bush's aides sat in Washington before he came to the region and made up a list of points from their analysis that all the

parties ... had agreed upon."

Reuter adds: Dr. Baz said in the interview that "Bush cannot appear in public and say openly that he came to the area to increase his election prospects." He added that it was wrong to overestimate visits by officials like Mr. Bush who he said have no power to take decisions.

In the interview, Dr. Baz criticised the United States for not agreeing to an international Middle East peace conference.

"It is regrettable that the U.S. still takes a reserved position towards holding Middle East peace talks in the context of an international conference," Dr. Baz said.

"The Soviet Union must not be left out of the final settlement... the Soviets, the truth must be said, support the Arab position much more than the U.S.," he added.

Dr. Baz said both Egypt and Jordan wanted the Palestine Liberation Organisation to take part in any negotiations. "No Arab side can take the responsibility of talking on behalf of the Palestinians," he said.

Poll shows Labour and Likud losing popularity

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's two major parties both dropped in popularity three months before Prime Minister Shimon Peres is due to give up his job to Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, according to a public opinion poll published on Wednesday. The poll, conducted by Public Opinion Research of Israel (PORI) for the daily newspaper Haaretz, showed that Mr. Peres' Labour Party had dropped in popularity from 37.1 per cent of the vote in the 1984 general election to 35.9 per cent now.

Mr. Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc dropped to 29.6 per cent from 31.9 per cent in the last election, the poll showed. Labour won 42 seats in the 120-seat parliament while the Likud won 41. Neither party was able to reach the necessary 61-member majority by forming coalitions with smaller satellite parties, as happened in previous elections, and they eventually

broke the deadlock by forming a "national unity" government together.

Under the terms of their coalition agreement, Mr. Peres is due to hand over the premiership to Mr. Shamir in October, after the first half of the 50-month period of office.

Israel's proportional representation system, each party list that passes one per cent of the poll wins members of parliament in direct proportion to the number of votes it receives.

According to the poll, in which 1,200 adult Israeli Jews were asked for which party they would vote if elections were held now, 5.8 per cent of the respondents favoured Labour's political allies, an increase of 0.7 per cent compared with the 1984 election. Support for the Likud's allies also went up, to 5.6 per cent compared with the 5.2 per cent showing in the elections.

Iran regime and exiles trade charges over London 'bomb'

LONDON (AP) — The Iranian embassy and anti-Khomeini exiles accused each other on Wednesday of being responsible for an explosion at an Iranian-owned newsstand and video shop which killed one man and injured 12 persons. Scotland Yard said the explosion could have been caused by a bomb and it was turning the investigation over to the anti-terrorist squad. Police initially thought Tuesday afternoon's blast may have been a gas explosion.

Anti-Khomeini exiles said the Iranian embassy had threatened the store's owner, whom they identified as Razi Faezaley, an actor who has made several films against Ayatollah Khomeini's government.

The friends, who spoke in radio and television interviews without being named, said Mr. Faezaley's 22-year-old son died in the explosion. But the Iranian embassy blamed the blast on an anti-Khomeini group.

Fayez voices concern over Gulf

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) Akef Al Fayez on Wednesday expressed deep concern over Iran's escalation of its aggression on Iraq and its continued threats and massing of troops along the Iranian-Iraqi border. In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Fayez said "it is regrettable that Iran is pursuing its aggression despite international mediation and calls for peace by Islamic, Arab and other world nations and initiatives to end the conflict." "This war is continuing to cause heavy damage to the two countries and to sap their human and material resources," he added. Mr. Fayez, who is also speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, voiced his support for Iraq's recent initiative for ending the conflict and called on the Iranian regime to listen to "the call of reason" and help establish peace and stability in the Gulf region.

Iraqi planes hit crippled tanker

ABU DHABI (R) — Iraqi planes struck a disabled Liberian-registered tanker in the northern Gulf on Wednesday, 13 days after it was hit in an earlier Iraqi attack, shipping sources said. Details were not available on casualties or damage but one source said the vessel appeared to be "half sunk."

The 117,340-tonne Mistra, partially loaded with crude oil, was first hit in the accommodation section on Aug. 7 near Iran's Kharg Island export terminal, starting a fire. The ship was beached and then refloated.

The sources said it was hit again Wednesday morning while under tow to Larak Island, Iran's makeshift oil export terminal in the southern Gulf, to unload its cargo.

In Baghdad, a military spokesman said Iraqi planes hit two "large naval targets" — Iraq's usual term for oil tankers and cargo ships — in separate strikes in the northern Gulf at 2200 Tuesday night and 0545 on Wednesday.

The shipping sources said another Liberian supertanker, the Akarita, hit by Iranian jets in an attack in the southern Gulf on Sunday, had anchored off Dubai on Wednesday. It would undergo inspection for damage and its cargo of some 80,000 tonnes of Qatari crude

would be transferred to another vessel, the sources said.

In another development in the Gulf war, Tehran Radio said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a was assured during a visit to Tehran that Iran had no wish to expand its war with Iraq. "Iranian officials stressed in talks (with Mr. Shara'a) their permanent desire not to expand the scope of the imposed war," the radio said.

It was commenting on talks Mr. Shara'a held in Tehran on Tuesday with President Ali Khamenei and Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi.

The radio said Mr. Shara'a brought Mr. Khamenei a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

2 killed in Basra

Later on Wednesday, Iraq said two more civilians were killed and 28 wounded by Iranian shelling of Iraq's southern port city of Basra. The one million population city has been under almost daily Iranian bombardment this month and Iraq has reported dozens killed.

A high command communique also said Iraqi forces in the Gulf war northern sector destroyed an Iranian helicopter gunship, killing five officers including the two pilots.

Soviets say U.S. test ban will open door to summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Soviet diplomat said on Wednesday that U.S. agreement to join Moscow in ceasing nuclear weapons tests would open the door to a summit this year.

However, the diplomat declined to say what would happen if the United States continues to balk at the deal.

"Of course, there are no preconditions," Soviet spokesman Victor F. Isakov said during a news conference at the Soviet embassy.

But, he added, "we are not in favour of smokestacks to cover up disagreements" between Washington and Moscow on issues of war and peace. Isakov was asked repeatedly whether Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev would meet this year with President Ronald Reagan, as the two agreed when they met last November in Geneva.

The Kremlin has declined to set a date, however, and it is not certain when or if such a meeting will take place. Isakov, pressed by reporters, repeatedly read a statement made Monday by Mr. Gorbachev, that: "The Soviet Union is confident that agreements on ending nuclear tests can be reached speedily and signed already this year at the Soviet-American summit meeting."

Mr. Reagan has refused to join the Soviet moratorium on tests, which Mr. Gorbachev on Monday extended until Jan. 1. U.S. officials say they need to continue testing nuclear devices to catch up with Soviet "advances" in offensive weapons.

Mr. Gorbachev is studying the latest arms-reduction proposal, made in a letter from Mr. Reagan, "and a reply will be given, obviously, to the U.S. president," said Isakov.

Poland to propose new move in Stockholm talks

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Poland said on Wednesday it would propose new steps at the European disarmament talks in Stockholm in the hope of bringing East and West together before the conference's Sept. 19 deadline.

A spokesman for the Polish delegation told reporters the proposals would be issued to the 35 participating nations at the talks in the next few days. At the opening on Tuesday of the conference's final session, Polish delegation head Wlodzimierz Konarski said that every delegation "could and should ... join in the search for a generally accepted solution to the remaining problems."

The spokesman said the Polish team was proposing the moves in

the spirit of Mr. Konarski's speech.

The Soviet Union said on Tuesday it was willing to allow one or two on-site inspections per year of its military activities by other states, a move welcomed as a significant step forward by NATO delegates.

Britain welcomed the Soviet concession and said it hoped this would clear the way for swift progress on other issues at the talks.

The United States also welcomed the Soviet acknowledgement that on-site inspection of military activities is an essential component of any agreement, a State Department spokesman said.

Largest anti-apartheid party marks anniversary

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The United Democratic Front (UDF), South Africa's largest anti-apartheid coalition, celebrated its third birthday on Wednesday with a vow to intensify its activities despite state-of-emergency curbs.

About 1,000 people, most of them students, marked the UDF's anniversary at a noisy indoor rally at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. But police banned another UDF meeting that was to take place at the city hall in Cape Town.

"Two months into this national state of emergency, the UDF refuses to throw in the towel," said

UDF spokesman Murphy Morobe in a statement. "Rather than submit to state repression, we've chosen this moment to intensify our activity."

Also on Wednesday, a 32-year-old white woman died of injuries suffered when a landmine blew up her car as she and her three children were returning home from church Sunday.

The explosion which blew up the car was one of two landmine blasts Sunday on farming roads near Nelspruit in the east of Transvaal province. The other explosion killed three black women and two babies and injured two black men.

Berri, Junblatt reportedly to join Lebanon peace talks

BEIRUT (R) — Two key militia chiefs will join a series of cabinet discussions aimed at ending the Lebanese civil war, the independent An Nahar newspaper said Wednesday.

Quoting a ministerial source, it said Shafie Amal leader Nabih Beari and Druze chief Walid Junblatt would attend "dialogue committee" meetings of Muslim and Christian cabinet members.

Mr. Berri is minister of justice and public works portfolio in Sunni Muslim Premier Rashid Karami's cabinet.

Mr. Karami Tuesday predicted a happy ending to Lebanon's sectarian crisis after he met Christian cabinet members for the first time in nine months.

The prime minister held talks with Finance Minister Camille Chamoun, a staunch supporter of President Amin Gemayel, and Health Minister Joseph Al Hashem, a top official of the Falange Party, in a bid to end the sectarian rift.

Mr. Karami said it had been decided that all ministers would hold dialogue committee meetings close to the city's green line "battleground, in what local media called a step towards national reconciliation."

Hopes for peace were boosted on Monday when Mr. Junblatt, whose fighters control the Shouf Mountains south east of Beirut, said he was ready to discuss any new plan to end 11 years of civil war.

Mr. Junblatt, Mr. Berri and former Christian Lebanese Forces militia chief Elie Hobeika signed a Syrian-backed accord last December aimed at ending hostilities by curtailing Falangist prerogatives and giving the opposition more say in government.

But the pact collapsed when Mr. Gemayel opposed it and Mr. Hobeika was replaced in east Beirut street battles last January by Samir Geagea, a hardline opponent of Syria's role.

An Nahar reported its ministerial source as saying Mr. Gemayel was "very positive" towards Tuesday's decision to set up a special cabinet committee to lay the groundwork for peace.

But Al Hakika, a daily newspaper with close ties to Mr. Berri, sounded a note of warning when it declared that too much significance should not be read into the cabinet talks.

"How do you want us to be optimistic," it said, "when the eastern (Christian) districts group will be sitting at the dialogue table with ideas which Samir Geagea shared in formulating?"

The Beirut newspaper Al Anwar said Syria had decided to cut its military force in Lebanon by half.

It reported informed sources as saying the reduction would apply to troops based in northern and eastern Lebanon and in mountains to the east of the capital.

Syria has about 25,000 troops in Lebanon in addition to several hundred commandos who deployed in mainly Muslim west Beirut six weeks ago in a bid to end militia anarchy there.

Independent confirmation of the newspaper report was not available and Al Anwar did not say when the troop withdrawal would take place.

It said the cut in Syria's military presence could help the Muslim and Christian cabinet ministers in their discussions.

France is withdrawing most of its support troops from the UNIFIL but is willing to replace them with a second infantry battalion, a UN spokesman said Tuesday.

Mario Zamorano, a spokesman for Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said a second French infantry unit was not needed now. France will leave the bomb-disposal unit of its logistics battalion with the U.N. force.

Sweden agreed to Mr. Perez de Cuellar's request to replace the departing French supply, transport and engineering companies, he said. No date has been set for the exchange.

Mr. Zamorano said withdrawal of the French support troops was not related to a recent shootout in southern Lebanon between French soldiers and gunmen of the Shi'ite Muslim militia Amal. Four militiamen were killed and 18 French soldiers were wounded.

Another incident was reported Tuesday. Mr. Zamorano said gunmen who were not identified opened fire on two French positions, but no casualties were reported.

He said France first proposed pulling out its logistics battalion four months ago, and even after the supply troops leave, the French contingent will be the largest in the 5,800-man UNIFIL.

France now has 1,391 men in the command including the 786-man logistics battalion.

Sweden contributes a 144-member medical unit to UNIFIL, which was sent to southern Lebanon when Israeli troops withdrew in March 1978 after an invasion of the area.

3 injured in E. Beirut explosion

BEIRUT (Agencies) — At least three people were wounded when a bomb hidden in a shopping bag exploded in a crowded area of east Beirut on Wednesday, police said.

The bomb, the second in the area in less than a week, came as local media reported that two key militia leaders would join high-level talks aimed at ending the civil war.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said 10 kilograms of TNT concealed in a shopping bag was planted between an empty school bus and a car on the central reservation of a busy six-lane highway in east Beirut's financial center of Dora.

"It was hidden in a shopping bag and tossed the car right across the street," said a "Lebanese Forces" militiaman standing by the one-metre wide crater gouged by the blast.

Turkey accuses Libya of interference

ANKARA (R) — Turkey Wednesday accused Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi of interfering in its affairs with his criticism of an air raid on what Ankara said were Kurdish rebel hideouts.

Col. Qadhafi was quoted Tuesday by Libyan radio as calling Friday's raid across the Iraqi border unacceptable and likening Turkish policy to that of Israel and South Africa.

"The message, which interferes in our internal affairs, should be delivered, will be rejected," Foreign Ministry spokesman Yilmaz Eratp told Reuters.

Ankara said the raid was in response to the killing of 12 soldiers last week in a Kurdish guerrilla ambush.

There has been no public reaction from Iraq to the raid, which Turkey said had been cleared in advance with Baghdad.

Israel denies stealing secrets from U.S. firm

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel denies scheming to steal technological secrets from a U.S. maker of aerial spy systems, state radio said Wednesday.

It quoted the Defence Ministry as saying Recon Optical Inc. of Illinois was involved in a commercial dispute over contract cost overruns with Israel's procurement office in New York.

Recon was working on a 40.6 million contract to develop a system that would allow Israeli jets flying above their own territory to take detailed photographs of neighbouring countries.

"The company violated a contract under which it agreed to sell Israel aerial photography equipment for a set price and Israel is now trying to get back sums it already paid to the company," the radio said.

"The company is doing everything it can not to fulfil its obligations and for this reason publicised false statements," it quoted the ministry as saying.

Recon Optical President Larry Larson said Israeli officers stationed at the plant had passed

on technology and proprietary data to a commercial company in Israel.

The contract was halted in May after the company complained that Israel wanted extra specifications which increased costs.

Israel has been repeatedly accused of spying and illegal weapons deals in recent months.

In June, U.S. Navy intelligence expert Jonathan Jay Pollard pleaded guilty to spying for Israel.

U.S. customs officials last month served subpoenas on eight employees of Israel's military procurement office in New York on suspicion of involvement in an Israeli scheme to obtain American know-how for use in making cluster bombs.

Israel denied any wrong-doing over the bombs.

Mr. Larson said: "They were taking from us the technology to make reconnaissance cameras."

"This is not a simple case of industrial espionage," he told Reuters. "We found ... that the government of Israel was colluding with a commercial firm to transfer secrets from this

country to Israel."

Mr. Larson said Recon security men stopped Israeli officers as they were leaving the plant after the work was halted, and confiscated 50,000 pages of technical drawings and notes handwritten in Hebrew.

The Israeli officers, members of the Israeli air force, were assigned to the plant to monitor the progress of the contract which Recon had since 1984.

He said the documents taken from them and translated from Hebrew exposed an elaborate scheme to steal the technology and pass it on to Israeli Electro Optical Industry. Recon hired a commercial translating firm to do the work.

Israeli Electro Optical, which is affiliated with a big Israeli conglomerate, is believed to be developing reconnaissance hardware for military use in Israel and export to South Africa, the Far East and Latin America.

The U.S. government has not granted his firm or the Israeli a technology transfer licence, Mr.

Larson said.

The U.S. had granted Recon a licence to export the hardware, however.

Recon said the technology used to make the system was to remain its property and could not be obtained by Israel or any other foreign nation without violating U.S. export laws.

Justice Department and customs service officials, meanwhile, were said to be investigating the attempt to steal the trade secrets.

Mr. Larson said Recon Optical is considering filing a suit accusing the Israelis of trying to steal the technology. The company had already filed a breach of contract suit against Israel alleging it is owed money for the unfinished project.

It was because of the alleged breach of contract that the Israeli officials were asked to leave the Barrington plant. Mr. Larson said security men routinely went through the Israeli officers' boxes to make sure U.S. government secrets were not being taken.

Denktash asks premier to form new government

NICOSIA (R) — Outgoing Turkish Cypriot Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu said Wednesday that President Rauf Denktash had asked him to form a new government within 15 days.

Mr. Eroglu, who tendered the resignation of his 13-month-old centre-left coalition government on Aug. 11, told reporters Mr. Denktash had given him 15 days to present a new cabinet list.

The government in breakdown Northern Cyprus fell because of a rift on economic policy between Mr. Eroglu's National Unity Party (NUP) and the leftist Communist Liberation Party (CLP).

The CLP had led opposition to Turkish-inspired plans for the territory to adopt liberal economic policies in a bid to attract foreign investment and reduce dependence on Ankara.

Mr. Eroglu said he wanted an administration "capable of harmony and cooperation with motherland Turkey," and analysts said they expected him to team up with the Revival Party.

Israel disappointed by Soviet statement

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli commentators expressed disappointment Wednesday about the Soviet Union's attack on Israel's demands for reciprocity in future relations and for the emigration of 400,000 Jews.

But opinions were divided about whether the Soviet statement was meant to appease angry opinion in the Arab World or whether it was genuine and spelled the end of the contacts between the two countries.

Monday's low-level talks in Finland between an Israeli and Soviet delegation, the first formal meeting between the two countries since the Kremlin severed ties in 1967, ended after only 90 minutes.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday the Soviets were reluctant to broaden their contacts with Israel out of concern for negative reaction from the Arab World.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov blamed the collapse on Israel's insistence that the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration be included in the talks, and its demand to send a delegation similar to the one the Soviets want to send to Israel.

Mr. Gerasimov, speaking at a Moscow news conference Tuesday, said nothing had been achieved at the talks and they would not continue.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was no contradiction between the Israeli and Soviet positions. He said the Israelis could not claim any great achievements out of the talks, either, nor that there would be any more Helsinki-like talks.

But added that "I presume contacts would go on in the future one way or another."

The consular affairs of the two countries are handled by interest sections in the Finnish embassy in Tel Aviv and the Dutch embassy in Moscow.

Mr. Gerasimov's statement "surprised even those who are already used to Soviet surprises. It surprised primarily because it did not tally with the understanding and summaries of the Helsinki meeting," analyst Avraham Trosh wrote in the daily Maariv.

But he wrote that the hardening of the Soviet position was apparently a reaction to Israel's uncompromising demands as well as to the wide media attention given to the meeting.

Yehuda Horan, head of the Israeli delegation, said he had told the Soviets that if they wanted to send officials to examine property and consular issues, Israel would send the same number of officials to Moscow to deal with the more than 800 Israeli citizens and the Israeli embassy building there. He was interviewed by the daily Davar.

Most commentators said the Soviet stand was also influenced by internal politics.

The daily Al Hamishmar, the organ of the Socialist Mapam Party, wrote that "one cannot free oneself from the impression that this negative turn is the result of power and position struggles inside the Soviet establishment."

Apparently the conservative forces in the Kremlin are still powerful and it is possible they have returned Soviet policy to its traditional hard line against Israel.

The conservative Yediot Ahronot wrote in an editorial that the Soviet "Nyer" was genuine and any Israeli who believed it was made only for tactical reasons was deluding himself.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

17:00 — Koran
17:30 — Cartoons
17:45 — Flash Gordon
18:00 — The Nightingale
18:15 — Religious programme
18:30 — Programme review
18:45 — News programme
19:00 — News in Arabic
19:15 — A special programme on Al Aqsa Mosque
21:30 — Contests programme
22:30 — Arabic Film
23:00 — News Summary in Arabic
23:10 — Play continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 — Music on tete
18:15 — News in French
18:30 — Varieties from Jewish Festival
18:45 — News in Hebrew
19:00 — Sport Magazine
19:15 — News in Arabic
19:30 — Carol Bennett and Friends
21:10 — Line Street
22:00 — News in English
22:30 — Feature film: Silence

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & party on 95.60 KHz, SW Tel: 774111-19

07:00 — Light Music
07:30 — Newsday
08:00 — Morning Show
08:15 — News Summary
08:30 — Morning Show
11:00 — Pop Session
11:30 — Talking about Music
12:00 — News Summary
12:15 — Pop Session
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13:15 — Pop Session
13:30 — News Bulletin
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BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1233 KHz

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Rifai issues memo on projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday issued a communique requesting all government departments, ministries and public organisations to provide the Ministry of Planning with information about development projects they are implementing at present. The communique said that the measure is designed to facilitate the implementation of projects included in the five-year development plan through providing data and information for the ministry which supervises all projects.

Handicapped sports team returns

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped returned to Amman on Wednesday after participating in the 35th international sports tournament for handicapped sportsmen held in Stoke Mandeville in the United Kingdom. At hand to welcome the returning participants was Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid who chairs the federation. He conveyed greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and best wishes for continued success. Prince Ra'd also voiced appreciation to the coaches. The Jordanian team received 14 medals at the contest; six gold, one silver and seven bronze.

Fayez confers with Iraqi envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez conferred in his office Wednesday with the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Amman. They discussed relations between Jordan and Iraq and reviewed the developments in the current Gulf war and the general situation in the Middle East.

JPRC's local sales rise 9 per cent

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company's (JPRC) local sales of oil products during the past seven months registered 1,638,382 tonnes compared with 1,496,848 tonnes during the same period of last year, an increase of 9 per cent, JPRC sources have said.

Officials to discuss leasing state land

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting will be held at the Ministry of Agriculture on Saturday to discuss the subject of leasing government-owned land in the southern easterly region of the country. The meeting, to be chaired by Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhan, will be attended by the under secretaries of the Ministries of Agriculture, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the directors of the Department of Lands and Survey, the Water Authority of Jordan and forestry, range and afforestation at the Ministry of Agriculture. The government has leased 120,000 dunums of state-owned land to a number of local companies to be developed for agriculture and animal husbandry. A Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said that the second stage entails leasing 40,000 dunums of land.

Shark attacks man swimming in deep water off Aqaba coast

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
and Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — A German pilot swimming off the coast of Aqaba miraculously escaped death when a shark attacked him, wounding him in the arm and leg, Aqaba hospital and hotel sources said Wednesday.

Hans Joachim Lange, 42, was swimming in deep water off the beach when he was attacked by the shark which he described to eyewitnesses as "huge and powerful." Employees at the Aqaba hotel, where the captain working with Lufthansa airlines was staying, said his injury was light and did not require hospitalisation. They attributed his survival to his "athletic

capabilities." "If it wasn't for his strong muscles, he wouldn't have made it," one eyewitness told the Jordan Times. "He had to swim very fast and for a long distance to escape," he said.

Hospital sources said the injury was not serious although Mr. Lange had lost some blood. Hotel employees, who said they have never witnessed such an incident before, said Mr. Lange would not have been attacked if he had not gone into such deep water.

"He went beyond the area allocated for bathers," the hotel receptionist, Radwan Nsour, said. Mr. Nsour said that the captain was so happy to be alive "he was not paying any attention to his bleeding."

Aqaba's acting police chief Lieutenant General Mohammad

Smoke billows from Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem after an arson attempt on Aug. 21, 1969 which damaged a large part of one of the holiest Islamic shrines in the world (J.T. file photo)

Chamber donates JD150,000 to Dome of the Rock restoration

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Amman Chamber of Commerce Wednesday announced it is donating JD 150,000 towards the restoration of the Dome of the Rock in occupied Arab Jerusalem. The announcement was made in a memorandum sent by the chamber's director Hamdi Al Taba'a to Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan, who chairs a committee for the restoration of the Dome of the Rock. The memorandum said that the donation will be made early next year and will be presented in five instalments, each of JD 30,000.

In reply, Sheikh Mheilan voiced his committee's deep appreciation to the Chamber of Commerce for the generous offer which, he said, will contribute towards preserving the holy shrine.

The government earlier announced it will cover the cost of

restoring the Dome of the Rock which will be covered with gold plated brass and sources close to the committee in charge of the restoration estimate this cost approximately JD 1.75 million. The eight-member committee, which includes the former governor of Arab Jerusalem among others, is now involved in preliminary preparations for the restoration work which is to be carried out by a foreign company, the sources said.

Carpets

Also according to these sources, the World Islamic League, based in Saudi Arabia, has donated 8,000 square metres of carpet for the holy shrine of which 4,000 square metres have already arrived in Amman and has been transferred to Jerusalem. The rest will be arriving in the coming week to be forwarded to Jerusalem. The sources pointed out that the dome was previously coated with lead and aluminium with gold.

Dudin, deputy for Ramallah hold talks on public services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin met here Wednesday with Mr. Nicola Akel, member of parliament representing the Ramallah constituency on the occupied West Bank.

They discussed a number of subjects of concern to the citizens of Ramallah and measures to be taken to offer them Jordanian government assistance. Mr. Akel presented a detailed plan of the services needed in the Ramallah region and said the area is in need of school buildings and piped drinking water to the villages surrounding Ramallah.

The minister voiced the government's keenness on caring for West Bank inhabitants and said that the government will extend all possible help to the Arab population and will also give due care to the education sector.

Mr. Dudin was quoted by Radio Jordan as saying that the government was giving serious consideration to supporting employees who were appointed to their posts on the West Bank after the 1967 war. He said that a higher committee from the Ministries of the Occupied Territories Affairs, Finance and Education has been formed to submit ideas on ways of assisting these employees who, he said, receive from the occupation authorities only a meagre salary insufficient for their daily needs.

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3. Able to work on his own without supervision

B. GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

1. A graduate
2. Three years experience, in store accounting, payroll, income audit, accounts payable and general cashier, preferably with a hotel accounting background.
3. Able to supervise other accounting staff.

C. SECRETARY

Part time secretary for office in Amman preferably whose mother tongue is English.

Those interested should immediately send their applications in English to:
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PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH REQUIRED: None

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ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Two Specialist teachers ensure that non-English speakers make very rapid progress

OTHER SPECIALIST TEACHERS: Physical Education, Music, Drama, Science, Maths, English, etc.

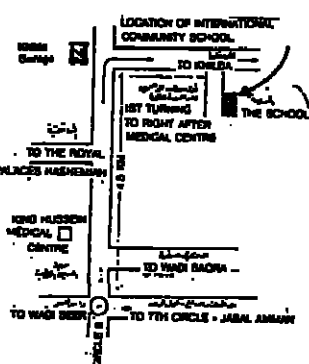
CURRICULUM: The aim is to incorporate the best traditions of the British educational system with the needs of an international community

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ENQUIRIES: The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term
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During the months of July and August the School will be open every Monday morning from 8-12 noon for Enquiries and Registrations.

Transport is provided to cover principal residential areas.



Jordan marks anniversary of arson attempt on Al Aqsa today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thursday Aug. 21 marks the 16th anniversary of an arson attempt at Al Aqsa Mosque in Arab Jerusalem. The attempt was regarded by the Islamic World as a crime committed by Zionists against the holy shrine and a further manifestation of Israel's policy designed to demolish the mosque and other religious places in the occupied Arab territory.

The Arab League announced that Aug. 21 is to be regarded in the Arab World as Al Aqsa Day in a show of solidarity with the holy shrine and the Arab people living under Israeli rule.

A statement issued by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra on Wednesday said that Jordan, under His Majesty King Hussein's leadership, remains committed to working towards the liberation of the holy places in the occupied Arab land.

Since 1948 Jordan has been struggling to defend Arab territory in Palestine and has experienced Israel's aggressive plans in the Arab region in general and those directed against Al Aqsa and other holy places in particular, Petra said. The agency said that Jordan has been working

towards thwarting Israel's continued attempts against Al Aqsa and its Judaisation programme in Palestinian land which entails evicting the indigenous population from their homeland. This has been done through exposing Israel's illegal actions to the world, Petra said. Jordan, the agency added, has been extending all possible means of assistance and support to the Arab inhabitants to strengthen their steadfastness in the face of the Israeli onslaught and to thwart enemy plans.

Petra said that Jordan has been issuing warnings about Israel's ambitions and intentions which, it said, have no limits and which are designed to achieve Zionist dreams at any cost. Jordan, the

statement continued, has been working through various Islamic organisations to keep Jerusalem and Al Aqsa alive in the memory and the minds of Muslims who should work for its liberation.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs issued a statement in which it said that the burning of the mosque 17 years ago was not the first Zionist attempt aimed at Judaising the holy city, but that it was one event in a long line of actions which illustrate Israel's expansionist designs and the criminal intentions against Arabs and Muslims.

The burning of the mosque was an attempt by the Zionist leaders to obliterate Islamic cultural and holy sites in the occupied land, the statement added. Israel, it said, has built more than 20 settlements and colonies around Jerusalem in order to impose the Jewish presence on the city, politically, economically and socially. Since 1967 Israel has been taking illegal measures in the city and harassing Arab citizens to force them to abandon their city, it continued.

The statement said that the Israeli authorities first demolished Al Magharibah quarter, close to Al Aqsa Mosque, only four days after entering the city. They then seized Al Magharibah gate near Al Aqsa and later tried to burn the holy shrine before declaring the official annexation of the holy city in 1970. The statement appealed to Arabs and Muslims to end their differences and their divisions and work together for liberating their holy land.

On the occasion, a special committee set up by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will hold a special ceremony at Al Wihdat refugee camp and will organise two panel discussions on Jordan Television. The ministry has instructed preachers to include the subject of the burning of Al Aqsa Mosque in their Friday sermons.

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATEINVITATION TO TENDER
CENTRAL TENDER NO. (8/86)

- 1) The Ministry of Health in Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank towards the cost of construction of Health Centres. Tendering is hereby open to all prequalified tenderers, the list of whom has been approved by the lender.
- 2) The Government Tenders Directorate now invites sealed tenders from prequalified tenderers for the construction of the second group of buildings of Health Centres in Amman and Balqa Governorates comprising (5090 sq.m.) as follows:

Abu Alanda — (380) sq.m.
Al-Hudaib — (380) sq.m.
Al-Salt — (1150) sq.m.
Ain Al-Basha — (880) sq.m.
Al-Bashir — (1150) sq.m.
Al-Hashimi (1150) sq.m.

Note: (The Groups numbered 3-6 will follow in sequence).

- 3) Interested prequalified tenderers may obtain copies of tender documents from the Government Tenders Directorate - Amman against a non-refundable fee of (JD 100) for each set.
- 4) All tenders must be accompanied by a tender guarantee from an approved bank operating in Jordan in the value of (JD 15,000), valid for (120) days.
- 5) Last day for purchase of tender sets is Sept. 30th, 1986.
- 6) Tenders shall be deposited at the Govt. Tenders Directorate not later than 12.00 noon on Wed. 8th, Oct. 1986.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee,
Director, Govt. Tenders Directorate.

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Enough nuclear games

THE United States and the Soviet Union are apparently at loggerheads on the question of banning nuclear tests, and if both are determined to stick to their respective rigid positions, the expected Reagan-Gorbachev summit this year could very well become a sure casualty for a tension-ridden world.

In extending the one-year-old unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions to January 1, 1987, and calling on the United States to follow suit, the Soviet leader, Mr. Gorbachev assumes a number of things. First, that a breakthrough could be effected in arresting the nuclear arms race and in speeding up the elimination of nuclear weapons. He argues that "if there are no tests, the nuclear weapons which both sides have stockpiled in abundance will not be upgraded." Second, he underscores his belief that the way to genuine world peace and security is to embark on a course that can eliminate all nuclear weapons from the face of the earth. Third, if at all a Soviet-American summit meeting takes place this year it should facilitate signing an agreement ending all nuclear tests — in fact it should be the "main real outcome of the meeting."

However, the U.S. responses to the Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions have been not quite encouraging to its proponents. First, the U.S. staunchly believes that "nuclear weapons will remain as a deterrent to aggression for the foreseeable future" and, therefore, "U.S. testing is needed to assure the continued reliability, survivability and effectiveness of our nuclear deterrent." Second, "the United States has an 'acute need' to continue nuclear testing to improve the ratio between warhead yield and missile throw-weight" because in this sector, the U.S. says the Soviets have a missile throw-weight "advantage." Third, the U.S. assumes that the Soviet Union had "completed a round of modernisation in its nuclear forces before Mr. Gorbachev announced the first of several moratorium periods on August 6, 1985." Fourth, Washington still holds the view that there are no effective means of providing complete verification of nuclear tests.

Elimination of nuclear weapons from the arsenals of world powers would no doubt keep safe the world from the danger of a total nuclear holocaust, though the dangers of conventional wars among nations would still remain. But the point is that a nuclear war would affect not only the countries involved in it but others as well, even those geographically far removed from the site of nuclear bombardments. As such, non-nuclear powers have begun to insinuate a stake in successful arms control-disarmament agreements entered into by the superpowers.

"We cannot accept that a few countries should decide the nuclear fate of the world," said a statement issued in Mexico City a couple of weeks ago by the so-called Delhi group of six countries — India, Greece, Mexico, Sweden, Tanzania and Argentina. These countries have also announced a plan for monitoring a superpower moratorium on nuclear tests. This would facilitate independent verification by a third party and probably infuse mutual confidence while the superpowers are engaged in arms control-disarmament negotiations.

The Delhi group initiative is to be welcomed as an important device in getting out of the "cat and mouse" game of nuclear arms balancing which the two superpowers have been playing for decades in the past.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. rejects moratorium

WASHINGTON'S rejection of a Soviet proposal for extending a moratorium on nuclear tests is really disappointing. This rejection places us face to face with the contradiction of U.S. talking about peace and working towards achieving it and between bragging about preserving the interests of mankind and actually exerting efforts for protecting human interests. The American rejection came only hours after Moscow's announcement on the extension of its nuclear test moratorium to January, and a call on the Reagan administration to follow suit. This means that the U.S. is determined to pursue its nuclear testing for ever irrespective of the international community's calls for an end to the arms race. We would have liked to see Washington responding favourably to Moscow's initiative at least for the sake of testing the Soviet real intentions. We were disappointed to hear Washington promptly declaring an absolute rejection of such initiative and announcing its determination to continue testing nuclear weapons for the sake of imposing hegemony on the world through force and arrogance and immorality. In justifying the rejection, Washington said the testing was needed to ensure continued effectiveness of its nuclear deterrent and the moratorium would not be in the interest of America and its friends.

Al Dustour: Ray of hope for Lebanon

FOLLOWING a long political estrangement between the two wings of the Lebanese government there looms in the offing a ray of hope brought about by a meeting held at the Lebanese parliament building and attended by representatives of the rightist and leftist factions. The meeting resulted in an announcement by Premier Rashid Karami that a cabinet session will soon be held following a break of eight months. This, and his statement about the possible formation of a committee that will be charged with initiating a new national dialogue to bring about reconciliation, brought new hopes to the hearts of the Arab masses in general and the Lebanese people in particular. In view of the deep differences among the warring factions, and considering the long bloody conflict they have been going through over the past 11 years, such a meeting among ministers representing both sides should be regarded as a very important event in Lebanon's political life. It is really a positive development that could open the door wide for real progress towards a settlement for the civil war.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israeli propaganda

ARAB citizens have become accustomed to Israeli propaganda and rumours designed to cause damage to Jordan's reputation and policies toward the Palestine question. Part of this propaganda was the latest reports by the Israeli newspaper "Hadasot" which claimed that plans are being made for holding a tripartite meeting in Washington grouping Jordan, Egypt and Israel. The paper derived its sources from other papers in the United States and foreign agencies know for their hostile attitude towards this Arab Nation. It is not strange for such hostile elements to propagate such rumours and harmful news, but it is surprising to see some of the Arab newspapers picking up such falsehoods and publishing them, thus helping the Israelis to spread their poison as wide as possible. These Arab newspapers which were deceived by the Zionist propaganda campaign have caused damage to the Arab stand and have shown doubts in the minds of the Arab citizens, instead of showing self-confidence in this nation that has been plagued by divisions and disputes for a long time.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Small farms key to solving Mideast food problems

By Franz Schurmann

SAN FRANCISCO — I read recently that Saudi Arabia has made a gift of 200,000 tons of wheat to Egypt. How extraordinary that a desert country should grow wheat and send to a country where wheat has been cultivated for at least 5000 years!

The reasons for this generous gift by King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz are clear. Egypt has a huge population. It suffers from poverty. Saudi Arabia has a small population and is rich. But it also has used its wealth to create astonishing new productive enterprises, both industrial and agricultural.

The gift of wheat also illustrates a much bigger world paradox. There are millions of people who are starving or hungering in the world. Yet at the same time more food is being produced in the

world than ever before. In fact the United States alone could produce almost enough food to feed most of the world's people.

Thirty years ago agricultural scientists began to talk of a "green revolution." The idea of the green revolution was to apply modern technology to the growing of food. Despite some failures, the green revolution has been amazingly successful. India, a terribly poor country, has for years been producing food surpluses. There is little hunger now in India. China has even more people, yet it too has been able to produce more than enough food to feed its one billion plus people.

In the United States we speak of a "farm crisis." Thousands of farmers are abandoning their farms. Yet the remaining farms are so astoundingly productive that they alone produce immense surpluses of food. That drives the

prices for farm products down. Of course, given the right circumstances, Egypt could feed itself.

There now is starvation in the region of the southern Sudan. Yet that region has the potential to become one of the richest agricultural regions in the world. It has great water resources and good soil. The reason there is starvation is war. War has driven peasants from the land. It has killed cattle. It has ended for now the vision of agricultural plenty in that part of the world.

There is agricultural destruction all over Africa. Deforestation has been going on rapidly. Farmers are leaving the land to go into new and huge cities. It is cheaper to import food from other countries than to grow it locally. Yet that was true of India and China as well. In those countries new technology together with wise

government farm policies (especially keeping farm prices high) stimulated poor peasants to produce more, and in many cases, enough peasants got relatively rich to make a real difference.

More and more experts are now saying that the salvation of Africa lies in the hands of small farmers. If the war stops, government adopt policies which provide decent prices for farm crops, international agencies build roads and dams, then the spiral of environmental destruction in Africa can be halted and reversed.

It was the small farmer which made American agriculture so productive. It has been the small farmer who has turned India and China into food-surplus countries. In Egypt it can be the fellah who becomes the saviour of Egypt. The entire Middle East one day be made green and fertile again. In landscape the Middle

East resembles California. Both regions are dry. Yet through waterworks, thousands of small farmers, and wise governmental policy, California agriculture is just about the most productive in the world. Whatever the grievances so many Arabs hold against the Israelis, it must be admitted that they have done well in applying the California agricultural model to Palestine.

The Saudis too have done well in making the desert bloom. They may also have shown that in what the West calls "development," in the end agriculture (and high technology) may be more important than heavy manufacturing industries. Their achievements in growing and exporting wheat may be much more significant for the world than their capacity to make high-grade steel at Jubail.

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Israel's next strike: Waiting for the right time

The following article was researched by Jordan Times staff reporter Salameh Ne'matt

THE Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post, published a report (August 4, 1986) by its military correspondent Hersh Goodman on the initiation of a series of debates in Israel on the Israeli army's development plan for the next decade.

"The plan will be the basis on which Israel's security strategy will be built, dictating the composition of the country's forces to the year 1996, and hence its overall deterrent posture," Goodman wrote.

In those series of debates, "the General Staff will, in essence, have to decide on the size and structure of Israel's future order of battle and, as a consequence, dictate strategic imperatives to future generations. If, for example, the generals decide to build a small but highly sophisticated army, based on a rapid response in the early stages of battle, they are in fact dictating preemption as a cornerstone of Israeli strategy."

The strategic decision to wage such a war had been taken already. However, because of the economic situation in Israel and of the traditional tendencies of Labour Party hawks to wage wars only in full cooperation with the United States, the particular timing of the attack awaits a green light from Washington, which for the time being is not coming.

Unlike his colleagues in Hebrew newspapers, Goodman left the impression that the Israeli military establishment has not yet decided on its war strategy and that "preemption," in other words, unprovoked attack, was no more than a mere possibility. It is hard to believe that someone with Mr. Goodman's contacts with high-ranking military officials has not yet figured out the real strategy of his country's army. The more likely explanation is that the English-language Jerusalem Post, known in Israeli press circles as the Labour Party's propaganda sheet, is mainly concerned with projecting this "moderate" image of the Israeli military establishment, although with a certain measure of ambiguity, to its readers — particularly those in the United States.

The following is a translation of a less ambiguous article by Reuven Padoatzur, military correspondent for Ha'aretz newspaper which appeared during the last debate in Washington on the American arms deal to Jordan.

The article, which is by no means based on an isolated phenomenon, was chosen out of a collection translated from Hebrew, clearly demonstrating the real Israeli intentions:

"Supplying the Jordanian army with advanced fighter planes and mobile land-air missiles might force Israel to react with a preventive blow in the case of a war breaking out in the region."

"The American-Jordanian arms deal must be considered not from the relatively narrow viewpoint of direct military risks, emanating from the supply of modern, sophisticated weapons to the Jordanian army."

in every case of war breaking out in the region.

"This means, that even when a war breaks out where Jordan takes no part, there will be no choice (the normal excuse used by the Labour Party for anything) but to use Israeli forces, to strike at Jordan's army a preventive blow to neutralise its offensive capacity."

Ever since October 1984 — that is from the time after the "national unity government" came to power, the Israeli leaders, recognised spokesmen of the army and many generals too, have been saying again and again that the next war, which should be "a preventive war" by Israel against the real military powers to its north and east, Syria and Jordan, and against the Arab World as such, is unavoidable, and it is only a question of time when it breaks out.

I am completely sure that the strategic decision to wage such a war had been taken already. However, because of the economic situation in Israel and of the traditional tendencies of Labour Party hawks to wage wars only in full cooperation with the United States, the particular timing of the attack awaits a green light from Washington, which for the time being is not coming.

I will explain in a concluding note why all this seems to be unperceived in the Arab World in general and the United States in particular.

The assertions made by the Israeli author of the Ha'aretz article (the theme of which is often repeated when writing about Syria) may astonish many people, including those who are close to the Middle East, despite the fact that these assertions are in no way exceptional so far as the declarations emanating from the highest military and political circles in Israel are concerned. What is more, they are fully in accord with the Israeli strategic thought, as it developed since the creation of the Jewish state (and to some extent even before that).

But so far as considerations of power are concerned, and consequently, the real Israeli strategy which is totally based on power, it has to be understood that the Palestine Liberation Organisation or the Palestinian national movement as such is insignificant, since (after 1983) it had no real or independent power in the Middle East.

The reasons for not paying enough attention to the real Israeli principles of strategy are basically two: the much too great attention and publicity paid to various efforts of diplomacy and in general of contemplation of "solutions to the conflict" which have no chances of realisation or even of achieving some alleviation of suffering, and the confusion between the question of achieving justice and the considerations of power. So far as justice and the actual or potential alleviation of human suffering are concerned, the Palestinians are supremely important and indeed deserve the help of all concerned with morality and justice. But so far as considerations of power are concerned, and consequently, the real Israeli strategy which is totally based on power, it has to be understood that the Palestine Liberation Organisation or the Palestinian national movement as such is insignificant, since (after 1983) it had no real or independent power in the Middle East, at least, no power that Israeli strategists or mainstream politicians can perceive or worry

about. It should be understood that I'm making this statement in sorrow: I wish that the Palestinians would be more powerful than they are, but I wish even more to clarify what I consider to be the true situation, and not to take refuge in what seems to be dishonest and dangerous illusions.

Correct perception of the existing reality is the first necessary step for any attempt to change it for the better; and indeed, the myth-makings in which so many Palestinian leaders are so often indulging, are an additional factor in obscuring the real strategic aims of Israel — the domination of the Middle East.

When discussing the real Israeli aims, the context of the Israeli politics has to be defined, in order to prevent as much as possible the prevailing misconceptions, such as the divisions between "doves" and "hawks" who quite often differ about means and timing but not about ends.

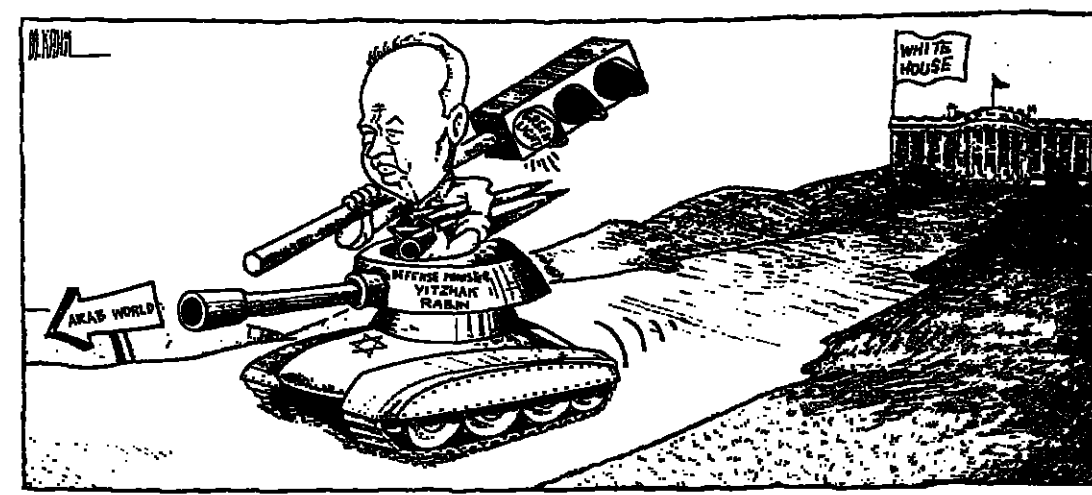
Correct perception of the existing reality is the first necessary step for any attempt to change it for the better; and indeed, the myth-makings in which so many Palestinian leaders are so often indulging, are an additional factor in obscuring the real strategic aims of Israel — the domination of the Middle East.

The present situation with the "national unity government," which is supported by a full 80 per cent of Knesset members with the extreme right wing (Ha'Tehya Party, Kahana being outside) isolated on one side and the left opposition (both Zionist and non-Zionist) on the other, represent the basic division of opinion as existed in Israel from the beginning. It is only the left opposition to the present government which desired peace which is not based on the domination of the whole area of the Middle East.

The aim of all the parties composing the present Israeli government is domination, if necessary by means of war and if possible by other means, of the whole region, and of the countries neighbouring Israel in the first stage. But this aim is being pursued "rationally," that is with due regard to the external and internal circumstances, such as the support or the lack of it by other powers such as the United States, internal cohesion of the Israeli Jewish society and so on, on which there can be, and there is, extended discussion.

The rightwingers, who believe either in the direct intervention of God on the Israeli side (so long as perfect faith in Him will be shown by reckless adventures) or in the unlimited power of the Jewish people, (and in their talents for propaganda) — so long as they will be united, full of the right sort of patriotism, self-sacrifice, oppose exactly the regard paid by the other parties to the internal or external factors which they always attack as hesitations that are harmful to the Jewish morale or faith. But at the present stage of development (that is if one ignores for the present their messianic aims which are unlimited in time or area) they have no differences of principle with the mainstream of either Likud or Labour, and this is shown in every political discussion in Israel. Sharon is in an intermediate position, but at present, with all other leaders of Likud united against him, he can be ignored.

The Israeli concept of domination of the Middle East means in practice the following lines of policy, which are consistently followed, although not always with success:



1. Prevention, if possible, of the building of a serious military capability by any Arab state. The very attempt of doing so under any political circumstances and from any source, is treated as a *casus belli*, a "legitimate" reason for an unprovoked attack. On this point, the Israeli public opinion (except the left opposition), is united.

The "reasons" given in the above Ha'aretz article for attacking Jordan because it obtains American weapons are exactly the same given in 1955-56 for attacking Egypt because it obtained weapons from the Soviet bloc, and the same reasons operated in 1967 in the attacks on Syria in March-April of that year and in the attempted (and widely proclaimed at the time) destruction of the Syrian infrastructure, economic as well as military, in October 1973. The bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor near Baghdad was yet another example.

By now, enough is known, and has been published inside Israel, about the real aims of the Israeli military establishment in its invasion of Lebanon for seeking clearly that the destruction of the Syrian army and Syria as a united state and as a significant power, was one of the three really important aims of that invasion (the other being as Begin put it "the wiping out of the trauma of Yom Kippur War," that is of restoring the internal confidence of the Israeli public and the establishment of Israeli rule in Lebanon).

2. The second way of building domination is by pushing Arab governments to be as dependent as possible on outside powers which can be influenced by Israel from inside by means of the Jewish lobbies and which will become, in consequence, whether rapidly or more slowly, as alienated from their peoples as possible.

There are enough examples of this basic attitude from the beginning of the Zionist movement, but for our purpose two more recent examples will be sufficient. Sadat achieved his greatest popularity in Israel in the last few months before he was assassinated, when his regime was most oppressive. This policy of general and comprehensive oppression was specially praised, even celebrated by Israeli media and political figures, and this approach to the Egyptian politics is consistent from the twenties, when the whole weight of the Zionist influence was put to influence the British not to make "concessions" to Zaglul Basha; through the opposition in the early fifties to the withdrawal of British forces from the Suez Canal Zone; and so on, through the 1956 and 1967 wars. The tying up of Egypt to the U.S. by means of the Camp David accords falls into the context of this policy, and its effect, which was achieved, was to make Egypt so dependent on the annual grants of the U.S. Congress, (which are in turn dependent on the favour of the Jewish lobby) that it lost all freedom to oppose Israeli policies, as the Lebanese experience has shown. The second example can be drawn from the Israeli intervention in Lebanese politics in the last ten years or more. It has

been shown conclusively, again and again, that the politics of domination in the extreme sense, as practised by Israel, prevents completely all alliances with viable political or communal forces, whether they are "right" or "left," Christian or Muslim.

The only forces that the Israeli establishment wants to support, or indeed can support so long as it persists in its policies of domination, are such "forces" as Haddad's or Lahad's "armies" or the equally absurd "village defences" and other "militias," past or present.

For this reason, abundantly proven by experience, the story of the Israeli alliance with Amal is a myth; and equally so, the attempted alliance with the Phalanges which broke down immediately after the election of Bashir Gemayel, and in his lifetime. For the same reason the so-called "Jordanian option" of the Labour Party is a myth in which only people who want to accept illusions and to disregard plainly announced intentions can believe. This is true even if we will disregard the enormous portions of the West Bank which the Labour Party wants to keep under Israeli rule. The main point of their plan (shared also by most of Likud in the form of what they call "autonomy") known as "functional compromise" is, that under the ultimate Israeli control and sovereignty, Jordan will take upon itself to "keep law and order," (that is the actual work of oppression), and so become completely alienated from its people (both Palestinians and Jordanians) as well as dependent on Israel as the South Lebanon Army is. Indeed if the line advocated in the Ha'aretz article will be followed, and achieve a short-term success, which is in my opinion doubtful but possible, an attempt in this direction will no doubt be made. Sharon's policies towards Jordan and what is advocated by the spokesmen of the present Israeli military establishment are not so different after all.

3. It follows that Israel is basically opposed to every movement, based or connected with Islam, not for theological reasons of course (those operate only in the extreme right) but simply because such a movement will enjoy a considerable measure of popular support. For similar reasons, every national Arab movement, of whatever sort, is always opposed; and the best example of this was the implacable Israeli enmity to Egypt's Jamal Abdul Nasser, which began a long time before the 1956 Suez war, or even before his purchase of weapons from the Soviet bloc, as shown by the notorious "Lavon Affair." The enmity began once it was clearly shown that Nasser intended to pursue a policy directed at achieving a real Egyptian independence as shown by the strength of his demands for the removal of the British troops from Egyptian territory and his consequent popularity. It is a greatest delusion to disregard this factor. Of course, with the main part of the Israeli establishment being pragmatic, the constancy of this aim does not mean that war will be undertaken at every

moment, but it means that it will be undertaken at a time which Israel considers favourable. It also means that policies which can really bring about a lasting peace with that Arab regime (whatever its attitude in global or internal affairs), which keeps some amount of popular following, will never be followed by any Israeli government under present circumstances, except under overwhelming external compulsion.

4. To avoid external pressure, and to achieve support in its aim of domination, Israel and its allies in other countries conduct a well-orchestrated propaganda, specially important in Western countries, which resembles on all points what the anti-Semites said about Jews. Again, there is a continuity in this method from the earliest Zionist times, and despite the prevailing delusions most of the "doves" (of the Labour Party or other centre parties) are even worse on this point than Likud "hawks." Dr. Chaim Weizman, "explaining" to General Allenby in 1918-1920 "the nature of the Arab" has been more racist and more really disgusting than anything which Jabotinsky, or even Begin, ever said.

At present, the more sophisticated form of Israeli incitement against all Arab states and specifically those which enjoy considerable independent power, such as Syria, take the form of the so-called "anti-terror" campaign. I will not deal here with the inherent absurdities of this call, such as the Israeli terrorism itself or its alliance with the most terrorist state, namely South Africa; but experience has shown that for a time, the American public opinion can swallow everything and follow the greatest absurdities. It should also be noted that in the U.S. the demands for the toughest and provocative steps in the so called "anti-terror campaign" and absolute support for Israel are strongly tied together. From the point of view of the Israeli establishment, an Israeli attack on Syria in the name of the West, undertaken supposedly as a form of a modern crusade (like the one against Libya) represents the best scenario for achieving the domination of the Middle East. Whatever is the position of both Syria and Jordan regarding all this, the Israelis are only concerned that to the north and east of Israel, no other significant military forces exist at present; the Iraqis being tied in the Gulf war (this is the reason behind the Israeli sales of weapons to Khomeini). Specifically, all the military forces of the Gulf states are quite negligible in comparison. Of course, this fact is known on the Arab side among the more thoughtful politicians.

Those Israeli policies can be stopped, either for a time, or even permanently. But the first and most necessary condition for such a change, which will be difficult anyhow, is a realistic knowledge of the situation inside the Israeli-Jewish society, and the avoidance of myth-making, illusions and facile but delusive hopes.

Disappointed whale-watchers see only choppy waves

By Mercer Cross
National Geographic

OCEAN CITY, Md. — Scanning the bare Atlantic horizon from the bridge of Mariner, his 65-foot sport-fishing boat, Darrell Nottingham sighs, "I've seen 'em so thick you couldn't count 'em."

He and the other 52 people aboard are looking for whales, peering across the choppy ocean with binoculars and bare eyes for the trademark spout of a fin whale, second-largest variety of the world's largest creatures and an important citizen of global waters.

To no avail. After more than 10 windy, chilly hours at sea, Nottingham and his disappointed passengers return to Ocean City's Talbot Street pier. Whatever whales dwell in those waters have kept their whereabouts a secret.

Bad day

Earlier in the day, as the Mariner tosses and pitches 40 miles east of Ocean City, one of the two naturalists aboard, Hal Wierenga, can only shake his head. "Today the chances are way down," he says. "This is not an optimum trip." Wierenga estimates that he's been out 88 times, and most of those times he's seen whales.

As the boat nears home, the sea calms, colour returns to the faces of the few seasick passengers, and

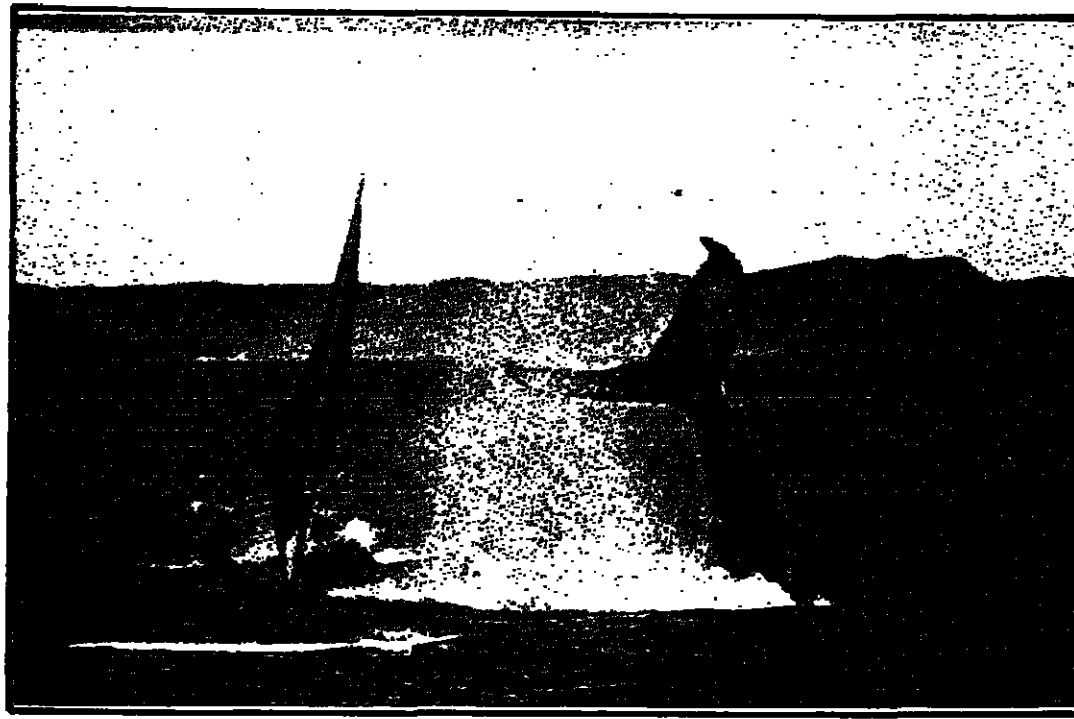
the other naturalist, Wayne Klockner, waxes philosophical. "Probably within 100 miles of us, north and south, there are hundreds of whales," he says. "But for some reason, the route they're travelling doesn't coincide with ours."

Despite the probable discomfort and the possibility of seeing no whales, nature enthusiasts in the mid-Atlantic region have been signing up for the whale-watching trips for the past 15 years.

They usually have to work to find them. Although whales are a common sight off the U.S. Pacific coast and farther north in the Atlantic, they're less common in the mid-Atlantic, because they like deep water, and the continental shelf doesn't drop off until it's nearly 60 miles out from the Maryland shore.

"Human beings have tremendous affinity for these mammals of the sea," says Ron Naveen of Cooksville, Md., organizer of the trips. "There's something about our culture that has bred a lot of excitement about whales."

When one of the monsters is sighted — the fin whales are as long as the Mariner and sometimes surface quite close to it — the passengers shout excitedly and jump up and down, says Naveen, an ebullient, 40-year-old bachelor who gave up a successful career as a lawyer five years ago to



A sailboarding visitor looking for whales is rewarded with a close encounter with two humpbacks in Newfoundland's Bonaville Bay. Fortunately, the curiosity of the whales was satisfied in one pass, and they swam off unimpressed. All

whales are protected by Canadian law. Newfoundland's Atlantic coast is known as "iceberg alley," the Labrador Current sweeping icebergs southward from Greenland and the Canadian Arctic.

pursue his interest in nature. "It's a visceral, emotional type of reaction."

Rewarded with sightings

Most of the trips are more productive than this one. Naveen recalls voyages on which the

whale-watchers were rewarded with sightings not only of fin whales, but of sperm, Minke, and killer whales.

Captain Nottingham produces photographs of a fin whale that "got right under the bow. I turned off the engines because I was

afraid I'd run right up on his back."

Mariner is the only boat at the dock that's regularly chartered for whale-watching and bird-watching trips. Nottingham, a taciturn but good-natured man who has spent 36 of his 49 years on

the water, puts up with substantial ribbing from his fellow sportfishing skippers.

A decade ago, Naveen says, "It was considered a bit wimpy, to say the least, to have these people take us off shore."

Nottingham, who Naveen says has "the best eyes in the world," might dispute that assessment today. He's developed his own expertise in sea birds as well as whales.

And he's learned to like the nature-lovers. Sitting before Mariner's electronic controls on the swaying bridge, he says, "These people are a lot more hardy than fishermen. If these were fishermen, half of 'em would be sick by now."

Nottingham and Lynn Jarmon, his youthful mate on Mariner, have been on the boat since 6 a.m. Often their trip with the naturalists last 12 or 15 hours. Rough waters shorten this one by keeping them from going beyond the continental shelf.

"Fishing's getting terrible," Nottingham says. "I enjoy this. But it's such a long day, you couldn't do it all the time."

"It's kind of like being a detective out there, trying to solve a mystery," Naveen says of the whales, intelligent creatures who seem reluctant to share their secrets with humans. "We really don't have the faintest idea where these whales come from or where they're going."

Drug abuse problem is worldwide, but national responses differ

By John Cotter
Reuters

NEW YORK — Zambian officials worry about marijuana and mandrax. A cheap cocaine called bazuko takes a heavy toll on Colombia's poor. In Iran, incorrigible addicts are hauled off to an island in the Gulf.

Drug abuse is both a plague and a target in many nations, not least the United States where trafficking in a new form of cocaine known as crack has reached epidemic proportions.

President Reagan has launched a high-visibility — but so far unbudgeted — educational campaign to rid the nation of a multi-billion-dollar cocaine habit, and the American press rarely passes a day without some new horror story about abuse.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke once wept on camera discussing his daughter's heroin addiction. Mikhail Gorbachev has spearheaded a crackdown against Soviet drunks and Britain's Margaret Thatcher last year warned drug smugglers: "We're after you. The pursuit will be relentless."

But a survey by Reuters correspondents shows few other national leaders involved in anti-drug campaigns. It also highlights vast differences both in the types of drugs causing problems and in government efforts to solve them.

U.S. statistics speak for

themselves: Five million regular cocaine users, and 500,000 hard-core heroin addicts, with 20 to 24 million more people said to have tried cocaine, the insidious poison its users call the "champagne of drugs."

This year the federal government will spend \$1.7 billion on anti-drug programmes, 85 per cent of its on law enforcement. About one per cent is targeted for education.

The White House wants to increase educational spending significantly, reasoning that since 20 years of intensive enforcement has done little to slow abuse, more attention should be paid to cutting demand.

Australia's situation is perhaps closest to that in the United States, although the "problem" is with heroin rather than cocaine. Hawke, whose daughter and son-in-law were heroin addicts, has waged a vigorous campaign against abuse and trafficking since taking office three years ago.

Hawke recently launched a \$60 million programme that will concentrate on education, enforcement and rehabilitation. A booklet on drug abuse was delivered to every home in Australia, which has a population of nearly 16 million.

Australia has become a transit point for heroin from South East Asia's notorious "golden triangle" and that has led to a serious increase in use. In 1984 more than 20,000 Australians

died of drug abuse, according to official figures.

Gorbachev's campaign against alcoholism, calling for high vodka prices and shorter licensing hours, has received wide attention in the Soviet Union. Compared with alcohol abuse, the Soviet drug problem still appears to be on a small scale.

But official newspapers, which previously treated drug abuse as a disease of the decadent West, have recently started carrying articles suggesting that it is becoming a social problem domestically, too.

A survey in the government newspaper *Izvestia* said the children of doctors and teachers were among a rising number of Soviet drug addicts and respectable-looking pushers including doctors were among the suppliers.

Marijuana is readily available in most parts of Africa, its power enhanced by some users by mixing it with the barbiturate mandrax.

Zambia's role as a centre for the mandrax pill trade was highlighted last year when President Kenneth Kaunda said the drug, flown mainly from India, threatened national security. Police detained 24 suspects under presidential orders, including two former government ministers. They were freed last April after apologising to Kaunda.

According to Pretoria's national council on alcoholism and drug dependence, the most

serious addictions in South Africa are alcoholism, marijuana, glue-sniffing and mandrax.

Mervyn Langley, the council's research coordinator, says the rate of alcoholism among urban black men is astronomical, and drug addiction is a growing problem. Marijuana and glue-sniffing are prevalent among all racial groups while mandrax is mainly used by white teenagers.

Production and smuggling are the major problems in Latin America, with Peru and Bolivia recently carrying out military strikes against drug operation centres.

Colombia remains the world's number one cocaine processing centre. President Virgilio Barco has pledged to continue the fight against trafficking, but analysts view the problem, due to its magnitude, as defying solution.

The main concern within Colombia is bazuko, a dirty form of cocaine base, similar to crack, which is popular among the poor because of its low price. Experts say bazuko is very harmful to the body because lead residue remains in the base.

Production also is a major problem in Asia where Thailand, Burma and Vietnam have well-publicised eradication programmes.

According to Thai officials, nearly 35,000 people were arrested on drug abuse charges throughout the country last year. More than 400 foreigners,

including Australians, Americans, French, Italians and Malaysians, are in jail.

Malaysia has some of the toughest laws to combat drugs, including a mandatory death sentence for trafficking in more than 15 grams of heroin. Two Australians became the first non-Asians to experience the severity of the law when they were hanged on July 6 despite worldwide appeals for clemency.

In Vietnam, the Communist government said it needed international assistance in medicine and equipment to cure and rehabilitate drug addicts.

Statistics left by the conquered South Vietnam government in 1975 said there were 100,000 addicts and more than 2,000 drug dens. At present, Ho Chi Minh city (formerly Saigon) still has about 3,000 to 4,000 addicts and about 100 dens.

The Middle East faces a variety of drug problems, but one link is harsh punishment.

A new law in Egypt mandates the death penalty for hard drug traffickers. The country has lived with hashish and opium for years, but heroin and cocaine appeared only in the 1980s. Experts say there are about 100,000 drug addicts in Egypt, a country of 50 million people.

Gulf Arab governments blame the growing use of narcotics, mainly hashish, heroin and cocaine, on an influx of foreign

manpower during the 1970s oil boom, higher per capita income and contacts with the outside world.

To Iranian authorities, drugs are a political problem. "The system of neo-colonialism is responsible for the spread of narcotics consumption in non-Western countries," Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi told a Tehran seminar in May.

Many drug traffickers have been executed — 197 in a one-month period in the spring of 1985 — and incorrigible drug addicts are sent to a "cold turkey" (cure by drug deprivation) island in the Gulf.

Heroin and hashish remain the major problem drugs in Europe, though West Germany recently declared cocaine enemy number one, saying usage would rise by 50 per cent in 1986.

In France, where heroin is the major problem, the government is considering a move to require drug addicts to spend time at treatment centres. Addicts are now only "invited" to get treatment at the nation's 117 centres, which cost the government \$37.3 million a year.

Britain recently passed tough new legislation aimed at stripping drug traffickers of their assets and the government last month extending an earlier anti-drugs advertising programme which used the much criticised slogan "heroin screws you up."

Africa faces new plague of locusts, grasshoppers

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

NAIROBI — Grasshoppers and swarms of locusts, thriving on plentiful rain after years of drought, are eating their way across vast swathes of Africa in the most serious infestation for 60 years.

From Senegal on the Atlantic to Ethiopia's Eritrea region on the Red Sea coast, farmers who survived the famine of 1984 and 1985 are watching helplessly as billions of the insatiable insects devour their fields of millet and sorghum.

Just as good harvests were breathing new life into the economies of the impoverished continent, this new plague could cause enormous crop damage and a disaster as devastating as the famine itself, aid organisations say.

Peter McPherson, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), described the possible consequences as "a catastrophe of massive proportions that could rapidly spread as far east as India."

Salik Sidibe, coordinator of the anti-grasshopper campaign in West Africa, said aerial intervention on a grand scale was needed to try to save what could be saved in the Sahel, the fragile belt on the southern fringes of the Sahara.

"This is as great an emergency as the drought. Unless it is treated with the same urgency, it is going to devastate the African continent," said a U.S. official at European Community headquarters in Brussels.

Scientists explain the sudden explosion in locust numbers as the natural outcome of good rains and warm weather.

Females can lay three batches of 100 eggs each during a life of only several months, creating new

swarms of several million insects. A single swarm may cover 10 square km and consume 4,000 tonnes of vegetation a day.

In parts of northern Senegal, grasshoppers have been sighted in concentrations of 200 to the square metre.

The present crisis is compounded by the fact that at least five species of locusts or grasshoppers are breeding, hatching, feeding and swarming at the same time.

Mali, Senegal, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Guinea Bissau have the Senegalese grasshopper, in some areas reaching the adult stage in a record time of 15 to 20 days.

The migratory locust, one of the most destructive species, is on the rampage in Ethiopia and especially in Sudan, where swarms of up to a million insects have been seen. In Eritrea, where civil war prevents an effective anti-locust campaign, the Eritrean Relief Association reports swarms reducing visibility to a metre. "Without an immediate regional effort, massive destruction of crops is inevitable," the association said in an appeal for assistance.

Chad, one of the world's poorest countries and major victim of the drought, has locusts and grasshoppers competing for the same vegetation. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates 3,000 sq. km of Chadland farmland will be affected later this year.

Southern Africa has brown locust, dormant during the present cold weather but likely to hatch and swarm in Botswana and parts of South Africa from September onwards.

A control officer in South Africa described the eggs buried in the veld as a huge time-bomb. When they emerged, the plague could last four to five years and spread into Zambia, Zimbabwe,

Namibia and probably Angola, FAO said.

The red locust has escaped into Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi from breeding grounds in the Rukwa valley of western Tanzania, while in East Africa the authorities are watching southern Somalia and the Red Sea coast for the first signs of immature wingless specimens of the desert locust.

Years of locust inactivity led to complacency and African countries have contributed to the disaster by winding down the regional organisations set up in the 1950s and 1960s to wipe out the young hoppers in their breeding grounds before they grow wings to travel on the wind.

In many parts of the continent it is already too late to apply the conventional and most effective method of spraying the immature locusts close to the place of their birth. The pilots now have to seek out the swarms wherever they move.

By Donne Norbert Beyer
The German Research Service

GIGANTIC floods, devastating cyclones, continuous rain and biting cold — in recent years Africa has been playing pranks worldwide. Frequent catastrophic storms and weather anomalies, like the now traditionally wet summer in Germany, characterise a climate which has grown warmer in the last ten years.

Between 1975 and 1984, the average annual temperature of 8.9°C registered for the period 1961 — 1970 was exceeded nine times by up to 1.4°C. With an average temperature of 10.3°C, 1983 was not only the warmest year in this ten-year period, but also the warmest year since 1761, meteorologist Karl Roczniak says in an article in the *Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau*. These apparently minor changes of temperature could have far-reaching consequences in the long run.

The four stations set up to measure average central European temperature are located in Utrecht-De Bilt, Potsdam, Basel, and Vienna. During the last ten years they have registered an increase in

temperature in all four seasons. There were heat records in the summer of 1983 (19.6°C compared to an average of 17.4) and in the winter of 1974/75 (4.2°C compared to 0.3°C). As the temperatures rose the level of rainfall increased between 1975 and 1984. This means that the weather was influenced much more by westerly airstreams from over the Atlantic than by eastern continental weather.

The frequent anticyclones over the Azores in the subtropical climatic belt and the frequent troughs of low pressure over Iceland in the westwind belt have the biggest influence on central European weather. Consequently, the climate-determining high pressure cells and low pressure turbulences are in most cases of Atlantic origin. The frequent shift of the Azores high pressure systems to certain positions supports the flow of warm sea air to central Europe. This flow of warm air, rather than solar radiation, is the main reason for the rise in temperature over the last ten years. In fact, the annual number of sunlight hours has declined by four per cent during that period. A further change in

the climate is the almost total absence of the *Eisheiligen* (May frost), while the cold weather in June is becoming more and more conspicuous.

One aspect among the wealth of data presented by Roczniak is of particular interest: regarding the average rise in annual temperature between 1975 and 1984, the increases of roughly 0.95 and 1.43°C in the autumn and winter seasons were clearly higher than the spring and summer figures of 0.41 and 0.31°C.

There have been extraordinary weather anomalies worldwide in recent years. The twenty-year lack of rain in the central regions of Africa and Asia have led to catastrophes, particularly in the countries bordering the Sahara. Long periods of drought and famine can possibly be traced to changes in those West African regions which are affected by the monsoons. The eruption of *El Chichon* in 1982, a volcano in Mexico, resulted in increased concentration of dust and ash in the earth's upper atmosphere and a considerable rise in temperature of the stratosphere in tropical regions. Another phenomenon is

areas in need. By September/November ... swarms of locusts may black out the skies, ravaging final harvests, destroying food for families in need and also seeds for next year's planting," the office said in a statement.

The office of the U.N. Children's Fund in Chad said that despite appeals for help by the government and international community, "not one kilo of pesticides" had reached the country.

"If they don't arrive within a month, we may not get them to the

El Nino (the Holy Infant), a warm-water current which displaces the cold *Humboldt* current in the Pacific Ocean off the American coast approximately every seven years, around Christmas time, causing a series of storms. This seven-year current is claimed to have triggered the colossal rainfall in the American Pacific area in 1983.

All these catastrophes are the result of similar atmospheric processes. What is still unclear, however, is whether these weather anomalies represent short-term, coincidental accumulations of abnormal weather situations, or whether they represent a more long-term development. But the most important question is whether man is partly to blame for the natural phenomena mentioned above, e.g. the shift of high pressure over the Azores or the atmospheric collisions. The rise in climatic temperature through air currents and a simultaneous drop in solar radiation might well point to the dreaded "hothouse effect" in the atmosphere, which could be the result of increased production of waste gases, particularly carbon dioxide.

Randa Habib's
Corner

2nd class cities

THE other day I started blaming myself for failing to write earlier in this corner about the "other cities" of Jordan.

During the 'Eid I visited Irbid and my feeling of guilt grew bigger and bigger. The entrance to Irbid is quite impressive, and gives one the feeling of entering a big city.

A highway, some monuments and few trees on the edge of the road — but the reality is so different from the first impression. As you go deeper into the town and as you wander into its residential areas, you get a shock. First of all there is rubbish everywhere. Piled up or scattered on the sidewalks, if they exist, or in the middle of the street. As for the streets, none that I saw was in a decent condition. They all had holes of some work that was started but never finished. Residents of the city, who know better, prefer to walk through the town rather than use their cars. Two cars should not meet in the streets of Irbid these days, because there just isn't enough room for two.

If people felt at least that the sewerage system being constructed in the city was a proper one they would bear the nuisance of the work, but they claim the diameter of the sewerage pipes is too narrow.

Last, but certainly not least, the water in Irbid is brownish in colour and oily in taste. A simple look at a cup of water is enough to convince anyone that the water is far from being clean. People of Irbid who told me that they boil the water before drinking it; assured me that in every pot of boiling water they get at least five centimetres of residues of unknown origin. And, if this is the case in Irbid, what is to be expected in the small villages around Irbid?

Radio programme on Arab culture wins global prize

CHALLENGED by faulty and simplistic assumptions about the Arab World, WDET Public Radio and the Arab American Media Society set out to dispel the stereotypes which wrongly malign Arab people through an informative, objective, radio programme.

That programme, *Arabesque: Insights into Arab Culture*, was recently awarded a Gold Medal in the fifth annual International Radio Festival of New York as the best Informational Programme, of a "magazine" format.

Arabesque: Insights into Arab Culture was one of 1,547 entrants from eighteen different countries in the 1986 competition. In taking top honours in the Informational Magazine category, *Arabesque* was selected over productions offered by the Broadcasting Corporation of China, Taipei, Taiwan; Newsweek Magazine's "Newsweek On Air"; and the Smithsonian Institution's "Radio Smithsonian" which were also finalists in the prestigious festival.

Arabesque Executive Producer, Warren W. David said, "It is a rare and distinguished honour to be commended by the top radio professionals in the world for our humble efforts to fairly represent a group of people often misunderstood."

Arabesque: Insights into Arab Culture explores the culture and society behind the shocking headlines which often anger and confuse the Western World. *Arabesque* draws upon the rich experience of Arabic literature, poetry, religion, intellectual heritage and popular culture to bring fresh perspective to events in the Middle East.

Arabesque can be heard throughout metropolitan Detroit in WDET (101.9FM), Sundays at 4 p.m. It is jointly produced by WDET-FM and the Arab American Media Society, Inc., a non-profit cultural and educational multi-media organisation. Established in 1980, the Arab American Media Society is dedicated to improving communication and understanding between the Arab World and the United States through the dissemination of specially-produced cultural programming.

Executive Producer is Warren W. David. Michael A. Daher writes *Arabesque* and Sameer Y. Abraham serves as the programme's researcher.

Arabesque: Insights into Arab Culture has recently become available to Public Radio stations across the U.S. via satellite. Currently 20 stations in as many different communities are broadcasting the award-winning news magazine — WDET press release.

Singapore airline hostesses fight rule on retirement at 35

By Lai Kwok Kin
Reuters

SINGAPORE — The Singapore girl, her charms immortalised in countless soft-focus airline advertisements around the world, is fighting her employers' policy that she is too old for the job at 35.

A group of Singapore Airlines (SIA) stewardesses has vowed to challenge a rule that they must retire at 35, saying it amounts to "sexploitation."

The recently retired hostesses, who received goodbye letters on their 35th birthdays, are determined to help their younger colleagues avoid the same fate.

More than 1,000 airline employees have backed their fight by signing a protest letter saying the age limit is sexist and against the government's policy of encouraging women to join the workforce.

Under a policy instituted when state-run SIA was formed in 1972, chief stewardesses must stop flying at 35 although their male colleagues can keep working until they reach 55.

SIA, one of the world's most successful carriers, employs about 1,400 stewardesses, mostly in their twenties. It also boasts the world's youngest aircraft fleet — its 30 planes have an average age of just under three years.

"SIA's young-fleet-company philosophy is good enough where machines are concerned. But when it comes to human beings, especially the much publicised and shall we say 'sexploited' Singapore girl, we must call it a halt, and demand fair play," said the latest issue of the SIA union magazine.

Citing other airlines, the magazine of the 7,000-member union added: "SIA has been sticking out as a sore thumb with this blatant discrimination of imposing a 35-year age limit and also hiring on fixed-term contracts."

SIA employs its stewardesses on five-year contracts which can be renewed for another two

five-year terms. They must retire after the third five-year term or on reaching 35, whichever is earlier.

When grounded, they are given a 15,000-dollar (\$6,800) gratuity and may be offered an office job with the airline.

Union officials say Singapore is the only country in the region that has an age bar for senior female cabin crew. Malaysian, Indonesian and Taiwanese carriers also ground stewardesses at 35 but senior female cabin crew stay on until they turn 45.

SIA has retired three chief stewardesses so far this year, after five in the previous three years. Company officials declined to say how many more would lose their jobs by the end of the year.

Deilah Hamid, who left SIA after 11 years when she turned 35 last May, told Reuters: "SIA has been selling the sex appeal of the girls but that shouldn't be the case now. It has yet to conduct a survey to see if passengers still prefer young stewardesses."

The Singapore girl is also barred from flying after she has children because the airline feels she will pine for her baby on long trips away from home, union officials said.

An airline spokesman said the company was not likely to change its policy. "Its philosophy has always been like this. The policy will stand, due to commercial considerations," he said.

SIA officials and travel experts said the youthful Singapore girl of the advertisements was one of the airline's best selling points.

The SIA spokesman said the employment terms were clearly spelt out when stewardesses took their jobs and that they could get other posts within the company when they stopped flying.

Union officials said they were still negotiating with the management for a collective agreement that would include extending by five years the retirement age of chief stewardesses, leading supervisors.

Canadian bids for gold medal sweep

MADRID (R) — Canada's Carolyn Waldo faced a tough tussle for her third synchronised swimming title at the world championships as her team shared honours with the U.S. after the preliminary routine Wednesday.

The synchronised swimmers and women's highboard divers enjoyed the spotlight as the racers were given a rest day at the halfway point of their programme.

Waldo, who won gold medals in the solo and duet events last week, and her Canadian colleagues had the edge in the figures section, whose points were brought forward from last week, but were marginally behind the U.S. in Wednesday's routine.

The Canadian defending champions compiled 93.400 in the figures and 97.200 in the routine,

though the latter total affected only qualification and was not counting in the final.

The U.S. silver medalists in both solo and duet, notched 92.621 in the figures and 97.400 in the preliminary routine.

Japan, who won a bronze medal in the duet, were third, well behind the North Americans but comfortably clear of fourth-placed France.

Chinese highboard diver Lu Wei made an encouraging start to her bid to emulate compatriot Gao Min's gold medal on the

springboard, establishing supremacy in four preliminary dives.

Lu compiled 184.32 points in the morning session to lead from Soviet divers Alla Lobankina (177.33) and Anzhela Stasulevich (176.91).

Lu's team-mate Chen Lin was fourth on 174.39 but defending champion Wendy Wyland of the U.S. was way back in eighth place on 160.11, with a further qualifying session following later.

The qualifying totals do not count for Thursday's final.

East Germany increased their lead in the medal tally Tuesday night to eight gold and five silver medals, closing the session with two world records in a single race.

Kristin Otto beat compatriot Barbara Krause's six-year-old

100 metres freestyle mark with a time of 54.73 seconds and led the East Germans to a world-best 3:40.57 in the 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay.

Heike Friedrich, who had already won gold medals in the 200 and 400 freestyle and 4 x 200 freestyle relay, added a fourth title to her Madrid collection by anchoring the sprint quartet to victory.

Matt Biondi won the 100 metres freestyle title to add gold to a collection of a silver and two bronzes, while compatriot Betsy Mitchell took the 200 metres backstroke — the only women's event of eight swum so far to elude the East Germans.

The U.S. are second in the medals tally with four golds, seven silvers and four bronzes.

Moses wins record 117th straight race

MALMO, Sweden (AP) — Edwin Moses, unbeaten in the 400-metre hurdles since 1977, extended his winning streak to a record 117 straight races Tuesday but missed his world record by more than a second.

Moses had an unofficial winning time of 48.28 seconds. It was a new meet and Malmö stadium record, but well off his world record of 47.02, set in 1983.

With his victory, Moses surpassed the previous men's track and field record streak held by fellow-American Parry O'Brien, who won 116 consecutive meets in the shot put back in the 1950s.

In women's track and field, two-time Olympic champion high jumper Iolanda Balas of Romania won 140 straight in the mid-60s. But high jumpers and shot putters

get more than one chance every meet. And Moses probably would have gone 200-plus races without defeat had the 400 hurdles also been contested indoors.

Other early winners in this non-grand prix meet included Americans Jeanette Bolden and Carol Lewis. Bolden won the women's 100-metre dash in 11.17 seconds and Lewis, Carl Lewis' sister, hit 6.65 metres in the women's long jump.

Carl Lewis was scheduled to compete, but withdrew because of a nagging knee problem that will keep him out of competition for the rest of the season. He finished the season last week in Zurich, where he placed third in the 100 metres.

Alice Brown and Jackie Joyner made it an American triple in the

100 dash. Brown was runner-up in 11.20 and Joyner, who set a world heptathlon record in the U.S. Olympic festival in Houston earlier this month, was third in 11.71.

Moses, whose streak also includes heat victories, has not lost since Aug. 26, 1977, when Harald Schmid of West Germany beat him in Berlin.

The 30-year-old Moses, who sat out the 1982 season as well as last year because of injuries, made his latest comeback late July in

Finland. He cruised to an easy victory at Lappeenranta and then added six more wins, tying O'Brien's record streak in Berlin last Friday with the fastest time of the year (47.53).

A double Olympic gold medalist in 1976 and 1984 and winner of his specialty in the inaugural world track and field championships in 1983, Moses has dominated his event like no other track and field athlete. He has the 10 fastest times all-time in the 400 hurdles.



ARAB VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS: The Egyptian team displays cup after winning the fourth Arab volleyball championships which was held at the Al Hussein Youth City over the last week. In the final match Egypt beat Iraq 3-1. Kuwait took third place with a 3-1 win over Saudi Arabia. Bahrain was fifth followed by Jordan, Syria, Palestine and Lebanon (J.T. photo)

Americano beats Al Faisali

BAGHDAD (R) — Americano of Brazil kept hopes alive of winning the Saddam International Soccer Tournament when they beat Faisali of Jordan 3-0 (halftime 2-0) in their group one match Tuesday.

Carlos Alberto put the Brazilians in the lead when he scored a fine header in the 20th minute. Fifteen minutes later Luis Alberto gave Americano their second goal from a penalty.

Alberto netted Americano's third goal in the 77th minute.

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FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Fozy A. El Kareem	M. El Khair	Owner	Sulman	56
2. Murad Ahmad Shawky	Maymoun	Owner	George	56
3. Mubad Hassan Ibrahim	El Jadica	Owner	56	
4. Farhan Fathi Oudhi	El Baria	Owner	Ibrahim	56
5. Abdulah A. El Raheem	El Shaleh	Owner	Dahan	56
6. Badir Hassan El Bakheet	S. Malik	Owner	Saad	54.5
7. Shihadih Atwah Slimy	Haman	Owner	Salah	53
8. Mohammad Khalid El Falez	Jawahir	Owner	Rasheed	51.5
9. Awwad Mahmoud Mohammad	M. Tarik	Owner	Mahmoud	50
10. Mahmoud Musallam Fayad	Nimir	Owner	Yousef	50
11. Talib El Nahar	Seed	Owner	Salim	50
12. Mashhour Faisal A. Jnaib	Shat El Arab	Owner	Sulman	50
13. Sulman Salman	Tafaa	Owner	Kasim	50
14. Saleem A. El Azeoz	Sabah	Owner	Mwafak	48.5
15. Yousef El Fadl	Um El Borak	Owner	54.5	

SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Mashhour Faisal A. Jnaib	N. El Salt	Owner	Sulman	53
2. Bahjat Fanous	Fairoz	Owner	Rasheed	51.5
3. Mishal El Falez	Nomas	Owner	Mousa	50
4. Ghalib Haddadin	El Zaeem	Owner	George	50
5. Samy Haddadin	Salek	Owner	Kasim	50
6. Dr. A. El Hafee A. Wandy	Z. Maen	Owner	A. Amarah	50
7. Fhaid Mitek El Sawaser	Saad Ramy	Owner	Saad	50
8. A. El Satta Meter	Saif Saad	Owner	50	
9. Mohammad Maesheh Mitak	Intisar Kais	Owner	A. Jabir	48.5
10. Kandour & Fakhoury	Kamah	Owner	Paul	48.5

THIRD RACE 5.00 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Mohammad Khalil Marley	Dahis	Owner	Daifallah	56
2. Mohammad Khalid El Falez	Sojoud	Owner	Rasheed	54.5
3. Nalet Salim El Kaisy	Sabal	Owner	51.5	
4. Hamed Abdullah Jamsany	K. Daly	Owner	Saad	51.5
5. Hamed Abdullah Jamsany	D. Daly	Owner	51.5	
6. Aly Awwad Mnsit	N. El Awwad	Owner	Sulman	50
7. Abdullah Jamsany	J. Daly	Owner	Ibrahim	50
8. Mohammad Khalil Marley	Saad Hazim	Owner	Yousef	50
9. Mshary El Bakheet	Sakir	Owner	50	

FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. H.H. Late Sheriff Nasir Stable	El Aehkar	Ibrahim	Ibrahim	58
2. H.H. Late Sheriff Nasir Stable	Yazan	Ibrahim	Salah	53
3. H.H. Late Sheriff Nasir Stable	El Hmady	Ibrahim	58	
4. Faisal Awwad El Falez	K. El Molouk	Owner	Rasheed	57
5. Mishal El Falez	Saif Saad	Owner	Mousa	56
6. Hany Kamel Beharst	El Molanby	Owner	Mahmoud	50
7. Samy Yacoub Madros	Saad	Adnan	53	
8. Jamel Mohammad El Zablin	El Hamdary	Adnan	53	
9. Ziad Samy Yacoub Madros	Min Kareem	Adnan	Saad	50
10. Samy Haddadin	Raad	Owner	George	50

FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1. Hany Kamel Beharst	El Shally	Husain	60	
2. Hany Kamel Beharst	L. El Basar	Husain	Salah	60
3. Khalil Haddadin	Dhwan	Owner	56	
4. Khalil Haddadin	H. Maen	Owner	Mostafa	50
5. Nimir El Hmoud	Dinar	Owner	50	
6. Nimir El Hmoud	El Talak	Owner	Mahmoud	52
7. Mishal El Falez	M. El Ajlal	Owner	Daifallah	56
8. Mishal El Falez	A. El Taleb	Owner	Mousa	53
9. Mishal El Falez	El Zafir	Owner	Saad	53
10. Faisal Awwad El Falez	Shihanih	Owner	Rasheed	51.5
11. Faisal Awwad El Falez	Khadith	Owner	Paul	51.5
12. Samy Haddadin	Wahed	Owner	Kasim	50
13. Mazin El Hadeed	El Karameh	Owner	Yousef	48.5
14. Ghalib Haddadin	Shamah	Owner	George	48.5

THE GRAND OPENING OF CINEMA PLAZA

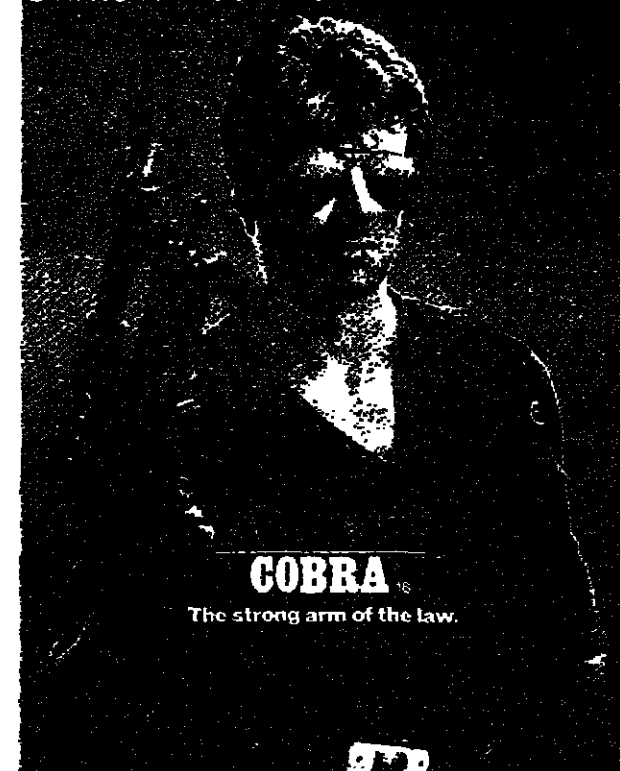
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Tel: 641093



CHINA RESTAURANT

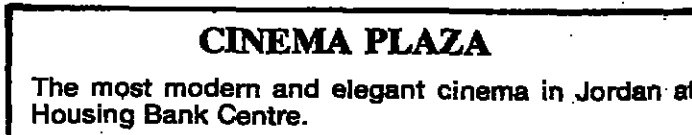
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AQABA

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CINEMA PLAZA

The most modern and elegant cinema in Jordan at Housing Bank Centre.

COBRA

Shows at: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.



CINEMA PLAZA

Shows at: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

COBRA

Shows at: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

COBRA

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COBRA

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.5025/35	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3882/87	Canadian dollars
	2.0500/10	West German marks
	2.3115/25	Dutch guilders
	1.6500/10	Swiss francs
	42.38/43	Belgian francs
	6.6775/825	French francs
	1410/1411	Italian lire
	153.00/10	Japanese yen
	6.8800/50	Swedish crowns
	7.3100/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.7150/200	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	378.30/378.80	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed mixed in moderate to light trading after early declines failed to attract substantial selling interest.

Prices were marked down at the outset following Tuesday's modest declines. But as the market eased, the lack of selling pressure pointed to a modest fall and the downward trend found a bottom at around eight points off on the FTSE 100 index.

Buying interest returned, helped by a rise of around 0.5 per cent in U.K. second quarter GDP in line with market expectations, dealers said. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 index was 1.4 down at 1,603.0 after touching 1,595.0.

Dealers said the underlying tone remains firm with hopes of a concerted round of international interest rate cuts among supporting factors following Tuesday's news of slower than expected second quarter U.S. GNP growth.

Government bonds closed with net gains ranging to 3/4 point after earlier rises of around 1/2 point in medium and long issues. Dealers said the initial advances were helped by a firmer U.S. bond market Tuesday while sterling's late softer path contributed to the erosion of the day's gains.

ICI was 5p off at 994 as was Lucas at 528, while Blue Circle rose 3p to 551 and BTR 5p to 290.

Tokyo stocks advance to magic 20,000 mark

TOKYO (R) — The Tokyo stock market hit a double record high Wednesday as investors seemed determined to push the market average over the magic 20,000 mark well ahead of the end of the year.

Traders bought and sold a record volume 2.10 billion shares over the day, sending the average 143.63 points higher to a record 18,936.24 point close.

Brokers said continuing speculation that Japan would match an expected discount rate cut by the United States and West Germany before the end of September triggered buying orders.

The Japanese central bank believes another cut in the 3.5 per cent official discount rate, which would lower the cost of company borrowing, would have little effect on the economy.

But commercial bankers say a cut would give an immediate psychological boost to Japanese industry swaying under effects of the high yen, which is hurting its export performance.

Japanese investors are also convinced that Japan's top companies will pull out of their economic troubles and come back leaner, meaner and more profitable than before, brokers said.

Major construction companies rose Wednesday on the view that government plans to restructure the economy more toward domestic demand, partly by injecting more money and loosening building regulations, would have the most immediate impact in the public works and housing sectors.

Electronics concerns were selected due to high hopes for the telecommunications sector.

Large heavy-industry businesses also benefited from the enormous amount of investment money available in Japan.

Brokers estimate that institutional and individual investors are pouring 500 billion yen (\$3 billion) per month into the Tokyo stock market.

The rising bull market is now in its tenth day with few brokers predicting an imminent fall.

London is world's currency capital, survey shows

Meanwhile, a new survey shows that London is the biggest world market for foreign exchange trading, with the dealers poised in front of video terminals handling an average \$90 billion worth of business a day.

The figure, published by Britain's central bank in a survey of the first 10 working days in March of this year, far outstrips the \$50 billion handled daily in New York and the \$48 billion in Tokyo — the world's other main financial centres.

The risky and volatile currency market has its home in the dealing rooms of banks and other financial institutions, where each trader buys or sells millions of marks, yen, dollars or sterling, often with a single phone call.

The Bank of England gave no reason for London's supremacy, but financial analysts said the "city" is financial heart, had the advantage of a centuries-old banking tradition and time zone that overlaps with both Far Eastern and U.S. markets.

The foreign exchange dealer buys and sells for countries, companies or individuals who need the money for trade, or may be dealing with speculators on the future of a currency — who deal in the currency as with any other commodity and are interested in making a profit, not in handling notes and coins.

But the volume of trading here is almost double recent estimates, the analysts said, throwing light onto a vast and expanding market.

This was the first such survey by the Bank of England and so there were no comparative figures to measure growth here. But the New York and Tokyo figures show that trading in the world's currencies has rocketed in the past three years.

Businessman sues close associates of Saudi king

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. businessman has filed a \$58 million lawsuit against two close associates of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, claiming he was prevented by "force and threats" from leaving the kingdom for 133 days.

Mr. Sam Bamieh said he was taken into "protective custody" in an attempt to coerce him to drop a suit that charged the king's associates with breaking a business agreement.

Mr. Bamieh and his California-based firm, Industrial Development Group Inc., alleged in the suit his business went broke because of a conspiracy to destroy his ability to conduct his business in the Middle East.

The suit filed in federal court in San Mateo, California, named as defendants, Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim, a businessman and former head of King Fahd's private office

and Mr. Mohammed Al Sulaiman, described as holding that office now.

Mr. Bamieh said he was forced to remain in Saudi Arabia from March 4 until July 15 and that all his firm's customers in the Middle East terminated dealings with the company because of the actions of the two men.

The suit said Mr. Bamieh was placed under surveillance and his telephone wires were tapped in March and that he was detained in May. The suit said he was afraid to contact his family "because of threats to bring his wife to Saudi Arabia and detain her."

Mr. Bamieh alleges he was slandered. He said the two men accused him and his company of being "enemies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ... agents of the CIA and Israel ... and dishonest."

Pressure grows on U.S. interest rates as economy shows retreat

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Pressure for new interest rate cuts to stimulate a sagging U.S. economy are mounting after figures showing weaker-than-expected growth and a sharply rising budget deficit.

The Commerce Department said Tuesday gross national product (GNP) — the measure of all goods and services produced — expanded at a miserly 0.6 per cent annual rate between April and June instead of the 1.1 per cent reported last month.

Meanwhile, a joint report by Congress and the White House warned that the shortfall between government income and spending would hit \$163.4 billion in 1987, obliging lawmakers to slash \$19.4 billion from spending programmes in order to comply with a mandated deficit ceiling of \$144 billion.

"I think probably we're on the threshold of a bit more stimulative monetary policy," said Mr. James Miller, director of the White House's Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Miller predicted the Federal Reserve Board, the government's policymaking arm which is meeting to discuss the economy, would lower its discount rate for loans to member banks.

The discount rate has been cut three times this year, most recently on July 10 to six per cent. Lower rates are considered stimulative because they signal easier credit and better lending terms.

The Commerce Department

blamed the weakness bedeviling the economy on the huge deficit the United States is incurring in its trade with other countries.

After a record \$148.5 billion trade deficit in 1985, the shortfall so far this year has been running at a \$170 billion annual rate and dragging economic expansion down.

It also has made even revised Reagan administration forecasts for 3.2 per cent 1986 GNP growth — instead of four per cent forecast in last February's budget — seem increasingly optimistic.

The economy grew at only a 2.2 per cent annual rate in the first six months this year, so only dramatic growth of 4.2 per cent in the second half, which few analysts expect, could achieve the administration goal.

The second-quarter GNP expansion was the weakest in four years, since near the end of the recession in 1981-82. GNP contracted by 3.2 per cent between July and September in 1982 and has grown in each quarter since.

"The GNP report presents a rather sorry state for the economy. We are still mired in a kind of stagnation, which is the result of weakness in trade," said Mr. Allen Sinai, senior vice president of Shearson Lehman Bros.

Sweden unveils multiple robberies involving shares

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Four people have been arrested in what may be Sweden's largest bank coup: The stealing and selling and stealing again of forestry shares worth up to \$8 million, police said Tuesday.

Police said two employees at the Forenigingsbankernas Bank headquarters in the Swedish capital had stolen shares of the Norrlands Skogsagars Cellulosa Aktiefolag (NCB) forestry company that were brought in for invalidation in connection with a change-over to a computerized system.

Superintendent Martin Blomme of the Stockholm police economic crime squad said warrants had been issued for the arrest of three other people still at large. The thefts were discovered last week, and the four arrests were made during the week-end, he said.

Superintendent Blomme said the suspects were the two bank employees, in their mid-20s, and other people involved in transporting and selling the stolen shares. He would not identify any of them.

"It is impossible to say exactly how much money is involved but they may have netted as much as 50-60 million kronor (\$7-\$8 million) in the coup," he told the Associated Press, adding that only

a minor sum in shares and cash has been found.

Newspapers on Tuesday quoted Mr. Rolf Andersson, the bank's managing director, as saying the thefts were in connection with a scheme which allows shareholders to hand in their shares at the bank for computerized registration.

The idea is to automatically pay dividends to the shareholders' bank accounts instead of requiring them to personally visit a bank to collect them.

But instead of invalidating the NCB shares after registration, he said, two bank employees stole the shares and shipped them to a firm in the southern town of Lund, which in turn sold them to bona-fide stock-exchange dealers.

The dealers had then, under the computerisation scheme, handed in their shares to the bank, where some of them were stolen again.

"Some of the shares may have been stolen three or four times," Mr. Andersson told the Stockholm newspaper Aftonbladet.

He said the thefts were suspected when it was discovered that more NCB shares had been registered than existed on the market.

Mr. Andersson said Forenigingsbankernas Bank would compensate buyers of the stolen shares.

Several analysts said spending cuts required under the Gramm-Rudman budget balancing law to meet the 1987 target of a \$144 million deficit would also hurt growth by reducing money in circulation.

Mr. Sinai said even the historic weekend agreement on tax reform proposals had a dampening effect on the economy because it proposed lowering personal tax rates by increasing the tax burden

on business. The White House found a glimmer of light in the Commerce Department's report that inflation was held in check at about a 2.5 per cent rate between April and June.

"With inflation remaining under control and key economic indicators strengthening, we are optimistic about the prospects for a strong showing in the second half," said Mr. Larry Speakes,

Romania proposes reduction, cancellation of foreign debts

CAIRO (R) — Romania Tuesday proposed cancellation of the foreign debt of poorest countries and a substantial reduction in the debts of other developing nations.

The proposal came on the second day of a conference of more than 120 Third World countries meeting here to discuss economic cooperation and relations with richer nations.

Romania's deputy minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, Mr. Vicentiu Dan, told the conference that debts of countries whose per capita income does not exceed \$500-\$600 should be cancelled.

He also proposed a "substantial" reduction of debts of countries with a higher per capita income of up to \$1,000-\$1,200 and a reduction of up to 50 per cent of debts of other

developing nations, depending on their income and potential.

"The problem of external debt requires an urgent solution in order to avoid an explosive situation that could endanger the stability of the world economy, international peace and understanding," Mr. Dan told the six-day conference of the "Group of 77," the original number of member states.

The group, which now has 127 members, is the developing countries' bargaining group at the United Nations.

The ability of developing countries to service their debt has been hard hit by declining commodity prices which have slashed export revenue, while Third World trade has suffered from what one delegate referred to as rampant protectionism.

Italian judge rejects appeal to unfreeze Libyan assets

MILAN, Italy (AP) — A judge on Tuesday upheld a court order freezing \$25 million in Libyan assets obtained by two Italian companies seeking overdue payments from the North African nation.

Milan Judge Francesco Pisani rejected the appeal by Banca Commerciale Italiana and Credito Italiano, two of the five Italian state-controlled banks holding the frozen Libyan deposits, and a lawyer representing six Libyan banks and the Libyan government.

Judge Pisani, however, also ruled that the Italian banks and the Libyan embassy in Italy could eventually appeal to a higher court.

Earlier this month, a Milan court ordered the 35 billion lire (\$25 million) in Libyan assets frozen on a request by Co. Fa. of Milan and C.F. di Piacenza, which claimed overdue payments on contracts with Libya amounting to seven billion lire (\$5 million) and dating back to 1981.

The action threatened to heat up political and commercial tensions between Italy and its neighbour across the Mediterranean. Libya has termed the action "illegal" and says it may sue for damages.

At least 20 other Italian firms, claiming overdue payments of about 200 billion lire (\$142 million) from Libya, have also said they plan to seek the freezing of

more Libyan assets in Italy. Milan court sources said no action is being considered against a 15.19 per cent stake held in Fiat SPA, Italy's largest automaker, by the Italian-based Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Co. (LAFICO).

The recent developments spawned rumours that Libya might be planning to sell its lucrative Fiat stake. But the report was staunchly denied by the Libyan side.

Istituto Finanziario Industriale (IFI), the holding company of the Agnelli family which is Fiat's largest shareholder, has been long trying to buy back the Libyan share.

The stake held by LAFICO is worth about four trillion lire (\$2.8 billion) at current market quotations, or 10 times original investment made in 1977.

The Libyan stake has become a prickly issue for Fiat, which is seeking contracts with the American space-based Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), or "Star Wars" programme. The United States earlier this year imposed an economic embargo on Libya, which it accuses of supporting international terrorism.

In a related development last week, the U.S. Defence Department and Fiat reached an agreement that would allow the Italian automaker to bid for defence contracts through a subsidiary that would operate under American law.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURS., AUGUST 21, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A wonderful day for you to decide your most expansive ambitions in business, social or personal life.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan your activities for the future in such a way that you make them work for you and your success.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact friends in any walk of life and gain their co-operation for achieving personal goals.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Study your position in the business world. Find ways to improve your popularity, also.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be alert to new opportunities and add to present activities. Form new associations.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A fine day to make arrangements with the one you love the most. Come to a fine understanding.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Being with associates who can be of greatest help to you in the days ahead is a wise move now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Add more comforts to your home. Enjoy the company of a generous and kind friend tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make plans for social events you want to attend with your mate. Do whatever will perfect your talents.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Plan how to make home situations more harmonious. Go out to some new place in the evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Contact persons you admire and make the relationships more ideal. Be more neat at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You understand how to have a greater abundance so get your ideas operating properly.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your personal desires are easily available today. Try to plan the future more intelligently.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be able to gain whatever is desired just by showing a little affection to others, but be sure to accord a fine education so that your progeny can acquire an excellent position of an executive nature. Give praise for any exceptional work done.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Both the day and evening find you eager to make new inroads into the ambitions that attract you the most. Check your figures carefully.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid a higher-up who is in an irate mood. Be careful when handling your credit affairs.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get busy at some business matter that is pending. Be sure to listen to suggestions from your mate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A business person could lead you in the wrong direction, so be very careful and use good judgment.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Take care you do not get stung by outsiders. Keep busy at your own job and be co-operative.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get into creative work. Your mate can give you fine suggestions that you should follow in this area.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Forget seeking pleasure today. Concentrate on home affairs and pleasing family ties that will be supportive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have neglected to handle communications and should get caught up with them now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take a rest period. Think about how to improve your monetary affairs. Avoid one who is pushy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have exact plans on how to gain your personal goals but use tact in executing them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can work some matter out. Put aside personal aims for now. Don't argue with others over them.

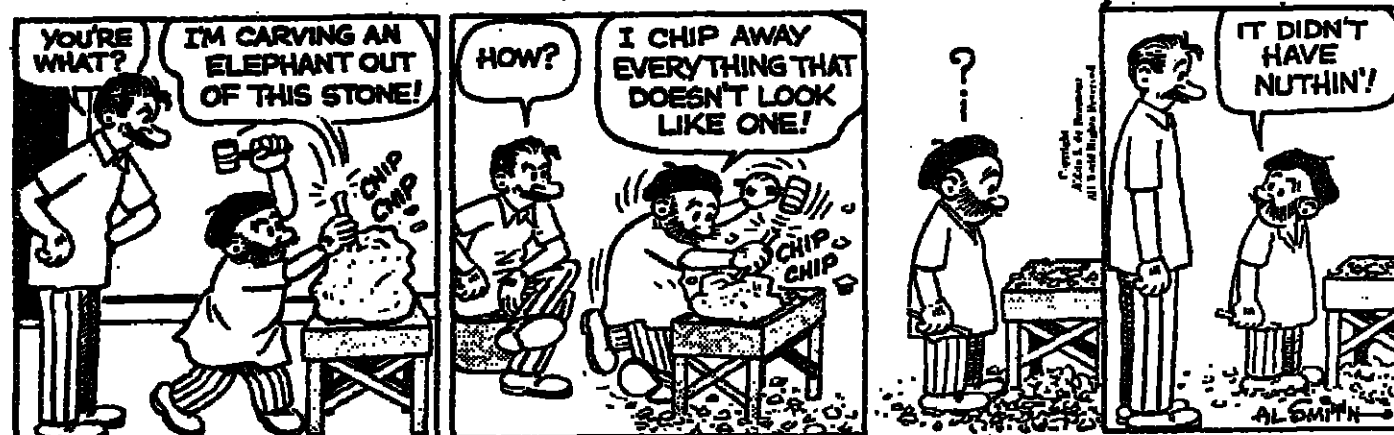
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't worry over a secret anxiety that you can do little about. Be kind and generous.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't mix into any arguments between friends. Look to a bigwig you know for assistance.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KYMOS

GEGAU

ANFLOG

YIPRAC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE " " OF " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: WEIGH FLOUR INBORN BEHELD

Answer: He picked a soft job because he expected to do this later — LIE DOWN ON IT

Scientists say SDI needs a treaty to get into orbit

LIVERMORE, California (AP) — Scientists designing Star Wars anti-missile system say it may be impossible to orbit the weapons until a detailed arms agreement with the Soviet Union is hammered out.

Space-based weapons can be extremely vulnerable to attack, especially at the moment they are put into orbit, said Robert Perret, chief of a unit at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory that is assigned to examine and test weapons policy.

"In a historical perspective, the Soviets have demonstrated the national will to oppose in an active and violent way actions which they find threatening, if they can," Perret said Tuesday. He cited the Soviet destruction of a civilian Korean airliner in 1983 and the downing of an U.S. U-2 spy plane in 1960.

"If some kind of agreement can be reached that protects the deployment phase for both sides, then you can get past a fairly hard point," Perret said. He acknowledged that his troublesome questions may have "been a thorn in the side" of the Pentagon in the early stages of other weapons systems.

President Ronald Reagan has strenuously denied that he will allow the Soviets to have a veto over Star Wars research or deployment and maintains that the programme is not a bargaining chip to be traded away for a cut in offensive weapons.

"We do not need a treaty with the Russians to deploy Star Wars," said one State Department arms control expert.

"However, it would be vastly more desirable if we could reach an agreement to amend the anti-ballistic missile treaty and reduce offensive weapons before we deploy space-based defences," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The State Department official considered it unlikely that the Soviets would, as Perret suggested, shoot down orbiting defences as the United States sends them up, but the prospect upset him.

"It would be a provocation. We would have to respond," he said.

In recent speeches, Mr. Reagan has emphasised that strategic defences must go hand in hand with arms control, and a team of senior U.S. negotiators went to Moscow this month to talk with the Soviets about linking Star Wars with reductions in nuclear arsenals.

However, the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), the formal name for Star Wars, is still in the research stage, and administration officials have not publicly outlined how an agreement would be structured to allow deployment of missile defences.

Mr. Reagan has resisted pressure from conservative critics pushing for immediate deployment of ground-based anti-missile missiles, similar to a U.S. system scrapped in the

1970's, capable of shooting down warheads as they approach their target. That, however, falls far short of the leakproof umbrella that Mr. Reagan has made the public symbol of Star Wars.

Much of the research on the space leg of strategic defence is being carried out at Livermore, a Department of Energy lab administered by the University of California.

Livermore scientists are prime researchers on the X-ray laser, a nuclear-driven device that might have defence applications, and the free electron laser, which Pentagon officials are promoting as a more likely energy source to knock down enemy missiles during the boost phase.

Perret and other Livermore scientists who back Star Wars go further than administration officials in stressing the link between negotiations and strategic defence.

George Miller, director of weapons development at Livermore, says "it has been a topic of discussion within the programme from its inception that SDI must be part of the arms control process."

Miller objects to viewing strategic defence "as a bargaining chip to be thrown in when the Soviets agree to cuts in strategic arms."

"The research programme has got to continue," Miller said, depicting Star Wars as part of a "calculus" in which a certain number of offensive and defensive weapons would be allocated each side in an equation designed to promote stability.

Pakistani troops in control after Sind protests

KARACHI (R) — Pakistani troops appeared in control of Sind province Wednesday after a week of unrest sparked by the arrest of opposition leaders cost at least 16 people their lives.

In this southern provincial capital, police sources reported minor incidents of stone-throwing at cars this morning, but no serious rioting. Witnesses said several towns in rural areas were quiet as troops patrolled the streets.

The violence began on Aug. 14 after the detention of leaders of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), a 10-party alliance that is demanding new elections before the end of the year.

Among those arrested was Benazir Bhutto, whose Pakistan People's Party is the country's largest opposition group.

At least 16 people died in the street fighting, but opposition sources have put the death toll at around 40.

The government crackdown, the biggest since Gen. Zia lifted more than eight years of martial law in December, followed an MRD announcement that it would defy government and hold rallies to mark the country's Independence Day last Thursday.

Government sources in Karachi, where protesters fought pitched battles with riot police, said 57 people arrested during the unrest had been released.

In Baluchistan, the quietest of Pakistan's four provinces in recent days, 32 people were released.

An MRD spokesman said Karachi, a bustling Arabian Sea port with a population of seven million, was quiet Wednesday because of an opposition decision not to hold any protest rallies.

Pakistan Tuesday accused foreign governments of interfering in its affairs by criticising its crackdown on opposition which began six days ago.

The United States, Pakistan's biggest military and economic backer, and several other countries have expressed criticism of the crackdown.

Indian sectarian violence leaves 3 dead, 58 injured

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Widespread Hindu-Muslim violence has flared anew in the western city of Baroda, leaving three people dead and 58 wounded, the United News of India reported Wednesday.

Authorities imposed an indefinite curfew in Baroda after street clashes late Tuesday night. No major incident was reported Wednesday, the news agency reported.

UNI said rioting and arson broke out in the city after unidentified gunmen in a car sprayed gunfire on passersby in a downtown district.

Mobs soon collected on the streets, and pitched battles broke out, the news agency said. Police used batons and tear gas before opening fire to quell the violence, it said.

The two victims were stabbed to death, UNI said. Several people wounded in the shootings were listed in serious condition in Baroda hospitals.

Baroda is in Gujarat state, which has been troubled by savage sectarian bloodletting since early July. The violence broke out after Muslims attacked a Hindu religious procession of chariots bearing idols of deities.

At least 68 people have been slain in the Gujarat violence so far, according to official count.

The situation in the state of 37 million people had been returning to normal in the past one week until fresh violence erupted in Baroda, Gujarat's largest city.

Meanwhile more than 50,000 people jammed a small Punjab village Wednesday to honour a moderate Sikh leader shot dead a year ago after he signed peace agreement with the Indian government.

Indian Vice-President R. Venkataraman and Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala led the tributes to Harchand Singh Longowal in Mr. Longowal's southern Punjab home village, which bears his name.

"The correct description of his falling victim to assassins' bullets will be that he stopped those bullets of blind anger and hatred with the moral force at his command," Mr. Venkataraman said.

Mr. Longowal, 53, then head of the Sikh-dominated Akali Dal Party, was shot dead by extremists at a Sikh shrine in Sherpur, about 20 kilometres from his home village, less than a month after he had signed the Punjab peace accord.

Officials in the state capital, Chandigarh, told Reuters the memorial meeting, at which strict security was imposed, was without incident. Wednesday had been declared a public holiday in Punjab.

Soviets reportedly end Pacific naval exercise

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union apparently has completed a naval exercise north of Japan that was among the Soviet Pacific Fleet's largest in recent years, Pentagon sources have said.

The officials said the largest ships observed during the week-long exercise appeared Tuesday to be sailing for Soviet east coast ports.

"It appears to be winding down," said one official. "All the evidence suggests the exercise is breaking up."

The exercise, disclosed by Pentagon officials on Aug. 12, involved more than 15 surface warships and at least 15 submarines at its height, the sources said. Among the participating ships was the aircraft carrier Minsk, one of the largest Soviet naval vessels, and the nuclear-powered cruiser Frunze.

The exercise was staged primarily to the east and west of the Kuril Islands, due north of Japan. The ships initially practised "the formation of a defensive perimeter barrier to protect sea approaches to their submarine bases in the area," one source said.

That was followed by a "seaport projection" exercise in which the Frunze led a combat group through the Sea of Okhotsk and past the Kuril Islands into the Northern Pacific.

The Soviet manoeuvres followed the recent completion of a major U.S.-led naval exercise in the Pacific dubbed Rimpac. That exercise was conducted primarily in the waters between California and Hawaii and involved two U.S. aircraft carriers along with ships and planes from Australia, England, Canada and Japan.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Art thieves return Picasso

MELBOURNE (R) — The shadowy group that returned a \$1.5 million Picasso stolen earlier this month said the theft was only the first phase of a campaign for increased arts funding, police said Wednesday. The arts minister for Victoria state, Russ Mathews, said the return of the painting was not the end of the group's activities and all art collections in the state were at risk while the group was at large. The Spanish artist's "Weeping Woman" was back in the Victorian National Gallery Wednesday after police recovered the work late Tuesday night from a railway station locker, 16 days after it disappeared. Police went to the station after a call to a city newspaper by a man who said he was speaking for the "Australian cultural terrorists." Police released Wednesday the contents of a note left with the painting, which said the return of the Picasso completed the first phase of the group's campaign. The letter, which roundly abused Mathews, thanked companies that had made donations to the arts since the theft of the painting. "Of course we never looked to have our demands met. If we had wanted a positive response... we would have asked for a new car, a leather lounge suite and ten days in Bali," it said.

Convicted killer executed

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A man who beat, slashed and burned a drive-in movie cashier to death was executed Wednesday after the U.S. supreme court and the state governor rejected appeals. Randy Lynn Woods, whose arms were tattooed with symbols of death and drug abuse, died by injection at 12:23 a.m. (0433 GMT), said Attorney General Jim Mattox. "I'd like to say goodbye to my family. I love all of them," Woods said just before the needle was inserted. Woods, 36, blamed drugs for his repeated trouble with the law, including the 1979 slaying of Betty Stotts. The supreme court this week rejected an appeal for a stay by a 7-2 vote. After the supreme court ruling, Governor Mark White rejected an appeal for a reprieve. Mrs. Stotts, 44, was collecting ticket money at the drive-in movie theatre when she was killed.

Dogs bite off postwoman's ear

GLOUCESTER, England (R) — Three Alsatian dogs ran out of a house and attacked a postwoman as she tried to deliver letters, biting off one of her ears, witnesses said. Surgeons tried to sew the ear back on in an emergency operation after the Alsatis knocked down Kathleen Roffe, 56, tearing at her hair and face. The owner of the dogs, Dale Chaplin, finally pulled them off. He told reporters the animals were pets and had never been a problem. A neighbour in this west England town, Desmond Baker, said: "She had letters for us but they were so saturated in blood I had to throw them in the dustbin."

Two panda cubs born in China

PEKING (AP) — Two female giant pandas in captivity in the southern province of Sichuan have given birth to cubs, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. The cubs were born on Aug. 6 and 12 to 9-year-old Guoguo, who lives in the Chengdu Zoo, and 12-year-old Lili, who lives in the Panda Research Centre of the Wolong Natural Reserve, Xinhua said. Guoguo conceived through artificial insemination, while Lili conceived through natural mating, the news agency said. The giant pandas, of which there are about 1,000 in the wild, have been threatened by a rare flowering cycle that has caused their staple food, the arrow bamboo, to wither.

Japan to scrap first nuclear reactor

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's first nuclear power reactor will be scrapped beginning later this year, a decade after it was shut down, a government official said Wednesday.

Keiko Okubo, spokeswoman of the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, said the dismantling of the demonstration reactor would be conducted over a six-year period at a cost of about 10 billion yen (about \$65 million).

The demonstration reactor, opened in Tokai-Mura 110 kilometres (70 miles) northwest of

Tokyo as the country's first nuclear reactor in October 1963, produced a total of 140 million kilowatts of electricity until it ceased operation in 1976.

Reactors currently in use are expected to last about 30 to 40 years and Japan must scrap some of 32 reactors, beginning in the 1990s, Ms. Okubo said.

At present, about a quarter of Japan's electric power is supplied by nuclear power plants.

Under the institute-developed technology, the scrapping

operation will be handled by a remote-controlled robot arm to cut broad steel plates and concrete walls covering the dome-shaped reactor into blocks, Ms. Okubo said.

Of an estimated 30,000-ton waste materials to be brought from the scrapping, 14 per cent of them or about 4,000 tons will be radioactive waste which will be contained in drums to be kept at a plant compound, the official said.

Ms. Okubo said the method of disposal of the nuclear waste would be decided later.

New U.S. formula may lead to dismissal of servicemen

WASHINGTON (AP) — Spending for defence programmes could be cut an additional 5.6 per cent and thousands of servicemen could be dismissed if Congress stands by its budget deficit-reduction formula, officials have said.

The 5.6 per cent cut in military spending for fiscal 1987, which begins Oct. 1, would total roughly \$9.7 billion. About \$200 million of that would come from the automatic elimination of cost-of-living increases for military retirees, leaving \$9.5 billion to be cut from other Pentagon programmes.

The reduction would apply to all programmes equally and thus could lead to cuts in active-duty strength as well as reduced funding for new equipment, training, construction programmes like military housing

and research programmes — including the president's high-priority "Star Wars" programme.

This year, the president had the authority under the so-called Gramm-Rudman Deficit Reduction Law to protect military salaries and Star Wars spending. That authority has now lapsed, however, meaning the Pentagon could be forced to release thousands of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen from active duty if the cuts become reality.

Rudolph G. Penner, the director of the Congressional Budget Office, said the cuts to the Pentagon budget "certainly" would result in more than a couple of hundred thousand people dismissed.

Such dismissals would amount to more than 9.5 per cent of the nation's \$2.1 million active-duty force.

Filipino gunmen holding tourist extend ultimatum

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP) — Pirates holding a Swiss tourist hostage have given authorities until the weekend to pay a ransom of 2 million pesos (\$100,000), the military said Wednesday.

Lt.-Col. Tarciano Martinez, commander of the Philippine Constabulary on Jolo Island where Hans Kunzli is being held, said he did not think the kidnappers will carry out an earlier threat to kill their captive.

"I don't believe that Kunzli will be killed because primarily, their intention is to obtain ransom," Col. Martinez told reporters upon arrival in Zamboanga from Jolo to report to his superiors the kidnappers' new ultimatum.

The military says the

kidnappers are a band of pirates known to operate on the seas around the southern islands. In the Philippines, the term usually is applied to seaborne marauders who rob and kill people at sea or along the coast.

Kunzli, a businessman from Zurich, and a Filipino companion, Adelaida Gamboa, were kidnapped on July 19 from a beach resort and taken to nearby Jolo, 80 miles (128 kilometres) from Zamboanga and 590 miles (944 kilometres) south of Manila.

The kidnappers released Ms. Gamboa a week later, sending word with her that they would kill Kunzli if the ransom were not paid within three weeks. Both the Swiss and Philippine governments have rejected the demand.

Bonn warns Tamils against seeking asylum

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Officials of West Germany's embassy said Wednesday that their nation tightly controls immigration and warned Sri Lankans they should not try to seek refuge there.

"Prospective asylum seekers should be informed of the difficulties in West Germany and not be misled by irresponsible organisations," an embassy statement said.

An embassy spokesman said that the warning was directed at members of the Tamil minority who have been fleeing the insurgency-torn island nation. More than 160,000 Tamils have fled Sri Lanka in the last three years.

The statement followed the attempted smuggling of 155 Sri Lankan Tamils to Canada from West Germany. The refugees first said they sailed from India but later they confessed to boarding a freighter in West Germany, where they had lived for up to two years.

The embassy source, who asked not to be identified, said there were at least 22,000 Tamil refugees in West Germany. About 8,000 of them had applied for political asylum, he said.

The embassy statement asked the press not to "arouse false hopes" of better prospects if Tamils sought refuge in West Germany.

"We are not in a position to house, feed and find work for many hundreds of thousands of

refugees," it said. The embassy said an overwhelming majority of those who had sought shelter in West Germany on grounds of political persecution did not satisfy legal requirements for grant of asylum.

"This applies in particular to those who have left their native countries mainly for economic reasons. They do not achieve their aim of working in our country because persons seeking asylum are not allowed to take up employment until their case has been proved," the statement said.

Tamils, who are Hindus and make up 18 per cent of the island's 16 million population, complain of discrimination by the Buddhist Sinhalese majority in Sri Lanka.

More than 4,000 people have been slain in the past three years in ethnic violence, rebel attacks and military reprisals in Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, West German police are investigating the possibility of ties between Tamil separatist guerrillas in Sri Lanka and the smuggling of 155 Tamil refugees to Canada.

A Tamil spokesman in Canada has said the refugees were not connected with the Liberation Tiger guerrilla movement.

A link was suggested by the discovery of apparent separatist guerrilla documents in a West German police raid on a Tamil-occupied Bremen apartment a day after the 155 slipped out of West Germany.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettenson

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

By Diane C. Baldwin

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1. Storage
4. Storage
5. Storage
13. Put up
17. Diamond —
18. Horse
20. Roof structure
21. Bible
22. Royal reward
24. Isomeric
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26. Isomeric
27. Isomeric
28. Active ones
30. R.L.V.P. word
31. Stone memorial
32. Pound for one
34. Unthought honor

DOWN
1. Weight
2. Storage spots
3. Storage spots
4. Come to rest
5. Tinted
6. Black
7. — grasses
8. French
9. Rank
10. Grandparental
11. Buddhist sect
12. Designer's
13. Helicopter
14. Formerly
15. Recipe mess.
16. Planning
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22. Pound for one
25. Swallow

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